HEALTH DEPARTMENT
Creation of office on women’s health

This office shall (1) Educate and advocate for women’s health with an emphasis on preventive health and healthy lifestyles. (2) Identify, and establish priorities for programs, services, and resources for women’s health issues and concerns. (3) Serve as a clearinghouse and resource regarding women’s health data, strategies, services, and programs that address women’s health issues. (4) Collect and analyze relevant information and data resulting from research conducted or compiled by LDH and any collaborative entities. (5) Develop and recommend funding and program activities for educating the public on women’s health initiatives relating to social determinants of health. (6) Make recommendations to the secretary of LDH concerning programs that address women’s health issues for inclusion in the department’s budget and strategic planning, (7) Seek funding from private or other governmental entities to carryout the purposes provided in proposed law. (8) Prepare for publication and dissemination of public materials regarding women’s health. (9) Conduct public educational forums to raise awareness and educate citizens about women’s health programs, issues, and services. (10) Coordinate the activities and programs of the office with other entities that focus on women’s health or women’s issues. (11) Provide an annual report to the governor and the legislature, concerning priorities and services needed for women’s health in this state and areas for improvement.

EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION

Proposed law may result in an increase in SGF of at least $1.1M annually. Proposed law creates the office on women’s health (OWH) to serve as a centralized point of women’s health advocacy and to coordinate efforts with existing programs, services, and initiatives across the Louisiana Department of Health and other agencies that serve women.

While proposed legislation only explicitly calls for the position of a Assistant Secretary to be created, the Assistant Secretary would possess hiring authority to employ staff as needed to achieve the intents of proposed legislation. In further discussions with LDH, it is assumed 5 program managers at a salary and related benefits cost of $123,660/yr each would be necessary to meet estimated workload demand in addition to the Assistant Secretary, whose salaries and related benefits are equal to $230,000/year. Total personnel costs are assumed then to be $848,300/yr, and operational costs based off previous estimates provided by LDH on the creation of OWH would equal $252,000, for a total of $1.1 M/yr.

SEE EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO
The Legislative Fiscal Office cannot corroborate the workload necessity detailed by LDH. To the degree that staffing levels are greater or less than that estimated by LDH, costs would change proportionally.

Note: Intended duties of OWH currently occur in several offices across state government, notably the Governor’s Office of Women’s Policy whose scope of duties include the advocacy of women’s health policy and serving as a connector between public and private women’s health agencies and educational institutions. As of June 2021, this office was staffed by 1 T.O. at an approximate annual salary of $88,400 and approximated related benefits of $44,200 for a total of $132,600.