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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Christine Arbo Peck.

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DIGEST

SB 126 Original

2020 Regular Session

Barrow

Proposed law establishes the Commission for Identifying Risk Factors for Cortical Visual Impairment and a program within the Louisiana Department of Health, office of public health, to provide for early identification of blind and visually impaired infants.

Proposed law provides risk factors for neonates, infants from birth through the first 28 days, who are susceptible to vision impairment to be premature birth of less than 32 weeks, in vitro alcohol or substance abuse, birth complications, congenital infection, history of neurological disorder, diagnosis of seizure disorder, cerebral palsy, intrauterine stroke, hydrocephalus, cerebral dysplasia such as schizencephaly, cranial dysplasia such as apert's syndrome, meningitis, encephalitis, brain tumor, or traumatic brain injury, and birth weight of less than 1,250 grams.

Proposed law provides risk factors for infants from 29 days to 2 years old who are susceptible to vision impairment to be genetic predisposition, family history of congenital vision impairment or vision loss, family history of autism spectrum disorder, history of neurological disorder including seizure disorder, cerebral palsy, intrauterine stroke, hydrocephalus, cerebral dysplasia such as schizencephaly, cranial dysplasia such as apert's syndrome, meningitis, encephalitis, brain tumor, or traumatic brain injury, history of metabolic disorders including hypoglycemia, 3-methylpropionic anemia, Refsum's disease, mucopolysaccharidosis, neuronal ceroid lipofuscinosis, disorders of glycosylation or Tay-Sachs disease, history of malnourishment, sensory processing disorder, malabsorption syndromes, and parent or caregiver concern regarding developmental, vision, or speech delay.

Proposed law creates a program for the early identification and care for infants that are susceptible to a visual disability, blind or visually impaired infants, and infants susceptible to developing progressive vision loss. Proposed law provides that the program shall include development of a susceptibility questionnaire and registry, written materials, methods to contact parents or guardians, a telephone hotline, a system to collect data, and a coordinated effort with the state Department of Education.

Proposed law provides for the composition of the 13 member commission, provides that members are appointed by the governor subject to confirmation by the Senate, shall serve staggering terms, and shall serve without compensation.

Proposed law provides that the commission advises the office of public health on the development and implementation of the program.

Effective August 1, 2020.

(Adds R.S. 36:259(B)(37) and R.S. 46:2271)