

1 **women's health**, and such other offices as shall be created by law.

2 * * *

3 §258. Offices; purposes and functions

4 * * *

5 **E. The office on women's health shall be responsible for leading,**
6 **consolidating, and coordinating efforts across the state geared toward**
7 **improving women's health outcomes through policy, education, evidence-based**
8 **practices, programs, and services.**

9 * * *

10 Section 2. R.S. 46:2527 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

11 **§2527. Office on women's health; assistant secretary; duties and functions**

12 **A. The office on women's health is hereby created in the Louisiana**
13 **Department of Health. The office shall perform the duties and functions**
14 **assigned to it in Subsection C of this Section or as otherwise provided by law.**

15 **B. The office on women's health shall be under the immediate**
16 **supervision of an assistant secretary appointed by the governor in accordance**
17 **with the provisions of R.S. 36:257. The assistant secretary shall employ**
18 **necessary staff to carry out the duties and functions of the office as provided in**
19 **this Section or as otherwise provided by law.**

20 **C. In carrying out its purposes as provided for in R.S. 36:258, the office**
21 **on women's health shall do all of the following:**

22 **(1) Educate and advocate for women's health by establishing, either on**
23 **its own or in partnership with other entities, appropriate forums, programs, or**
24 **initiatives designed to educate the public regarding women's health, with an**
25 **emphasis on preventive health and healthy lifestyles.**

26 **(2) Identify, coordinate, and establish priorities for programs, services,**
27 **and resources for women's health issues and concerns.**

28 **(3) Serve as a clearinghouse and resource regarding women's health**
29 **data, strategies, services, and programs that address women's health issues.**

1 **(4) Collect, classify, and analyze relevant research information and data**
2 **conducted or compiled by the Louisiana Department of Health or other**
3 **collaborative entities and provide persons with information regarding the**
4 **research results, except as prohibited by law.**

5 **(5) Develop and recommend funding and program activities for**
6 **educating the public on women's health initiatives relating to the social**
7 **determinants of health including all of the following:**

8 **(a) Health needs throughout a woman's life.**

9 **(b) Chronic conditions that significantly affect women, such as heart**
10 **disease, cancer, and osteoporosis.**

11 **(c) Access to health care for women.**

12 **(d) Poverty and women's health.**

13 **(e) The leading causes of morbidity and mortality for women.**

14 **(f) Health disparities of women.**

15 **(6) Make recommendations to the secretary of the Louisiana Department**
16 **of Health regarding programs that address women's health issues for inclusion**
17 **in the department's budget and strategic planning.**

18 **(7) Seek funding from private or other governmental entities to carry out**
19 **the purposes, duties, and functions of the office on women's health.**

20 **(8) Prepare materials for publication and dissemination to the public on**
21 **women's health.**

22 **(9) Conduct public educational forums in Louisiana to raise public**
23 **awareness and to educate citizens about women's health programs, issues, and**
24 **services.**

25 **(10) Coordinate the activities and programs of the office on women's**
26 **health with other entities that focus on women's health or women's issues.**

27 **(11) Provide an annual report to the governor, legislature, and secretary**
28 **of the Louisiana Department of Health on the priorities and services needed for**
29 **women's health in Louisiana, and areas for improvement.**

1 Section 3. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not
2 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature
3 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If
4 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become
5 effective on the day following such approval.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Brandi Cannon.

DIGEST

SB 72 Engrossed

2021 Regular Session

Carter

Proposed law provides for the office on women's health within the Louisiana Department of Health which shall be responsible for leading, consolidating, and coordinating efforts across the state geared toward improving women's health outcomes through policy, education, evidence-based practices, programs, and services, and provides for the assistant secretary, staff, and duties and functions of the office.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 36:251(C)(1); adds R.S. 36:258(E) and R.S. 46:2527)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Health and Welfare to
the original bill

1. Makes technical changes.