
DIGEST

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HB 397 Engrossed

2021 Regular Session

White

Abstract: Authorizes the Louisiana Department of Health to provide education and training to healthcare providers who treat patients suffering from Alzheimer's disease or other dementia diseases.

Proposed law states that the legislature is aware of the importance of early detection and timely diagnosis of cognitive impairment and dementia. Provides that it is in the public interest that information be provided to better understand Alzheimer's disease and other dementia diseases and increase awareness. Also, states that it is public policy of the state that the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) provide consistent guidance and effective education programs to healthcare providers across the state.

Proposed law provides that LDH may educate healthcare providers on the following:

- (1) The importance of effective care planning, including treatment options, support and services, long-term care options, advanced directives, and care at every stage of Alzheimer's disease and other dementia diseases to include appropriate counseling.
- (2) The use of validated cognitive assessment tools.

Proposed law states that the LDH office of public health may provide information that does all of the following:

- (1) Increases awareness of Alzheimer's disease and other dementia diseases including any link to chronic disease, such as vascular risk factors.
- (2) Advises the public of the value of early detection of Alzheimer's disease and other dementia diseases along with information on the early signs of such diseases.
- (3) Educates the public on the importance of identifying and reporting signs of Alzheimer's disease and other dementia diseases to healthcare providers for timely diagnosis.
- (4) Increases data and surveillance applicable to Alzheimer's disease and other dementia diseases and encourages additional data analysis and accurate reporting on death certificates.

Proposed law authorizes LDH to promulgate rules and regulations in accordance with present law to comply with the provisions of proposed law. Further provides that the department shall consult

with and seek input from the Louisiana chapter of the Alzheimer's Association when promulgating such rules and regulations.

(Adds R.S. 40:2200.7.1 and 2200.7.2)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Health and Welfare to the original bill:

1. Revise proposed law to provide all of the following:
 - a. Delete proposed law stating that it is the public policy of this state to require the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) to provide consistent guidance and effective education outreach programs to healthcare providers across the state, and add instead that it is the public policy of this state that healthcare providers in Louisiana have access to guidance and education outreach programs regarding Alzheimer's disease and other dementia diseases.
 - b. Add to proposed law a requirement that LDH work with the Louisiana chapter of the Alzheimer's Association to facilitate the distribution, by any means agreed upon by the department and the association, of the educational materials prepared by the association that address Alzheimer's disease and other dementia diseases.
 - c. Revise proposed law requiring that administrative rules of LDH include types of cognitive assessment tools to be available to healthcare providers to provide instead that such rules may include these cognitive tools.
2. Revise proposed law that mandates LDH to educate, provide outreach programs, and promulgate rules and regulations and add instead an authorization for LDH to perform these functions.
3. Make technical changes.