

2021 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 133

BY SENATOR BARROW

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT. Provides relative to the prioritization of health equity by the Louisiana Department of Health. (gov sig)

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 40:1263, relative to equity in health care services; to provide for the duties of
3 the Louisiana Department of Health; to provide for best practices and protocols for
4 treating communities with underlying medical conditions and health disparities; to
5 provide for an effective date; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 40:1263 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

8 **§1263. Health equity; duties of the Louisiana Department of Health**

9 **A. The Louisiana Department of Health, in addition to the other powers**
10 **and duties conferred upon it by law, shall serve as a foundation and resource for**
11 **addressing health care disparities for women and vulnerable populations, and**
12 **contribute to the improvement of the health of Louisiana's citizens. Specific to**
13 **the improvement in the health of women in Louisiana, the Louisiana**
14 **Department of Health shall be responsible for leading, consolidating, and**
15 **coordinating efforts across the state geared toward improving women's health**
16 **outcomes through policy, education, evidence-based practices, programs, and**
17 **services.**

1 **B. As part of carrying out the duties provided for in Subsection A of this**
2 **Section, the Louisiana Department of Health shall engage in all of the following**
3 **activities:**

4 **(1) Complete a thorough assessment of all activities engaged in or**
5 **services provided by the department that may specifically impact the health or**
6 **quality of life of women. The department shall submit this assessment to the**
7 **House Committee on Health and Welfare and Senate Committee on Health and**
8 **Welfare no later than February 15, 2022.**

9 **(2) Make available to health care professionals the best practices and**
10 **protocols for treating communities with underlying medical conditions and**
11 **health disparities by doing all of the following:**

12 **(a) Examining opportunities which provide greater access to high**
13 **quality medical care and improve health outcomes.**

14 **(b) Performing a comprehensive evidenced-based analysis of the**
15 **determinants of health equity that influence racial health disparities.**

16 **(c) Performing a comprehensive evidenced-based analysis of**
17 **interventions that positively impact health equity and address disparities.**

18 **(d) Performing a comprehensive examination of the population dynamics**
19 **that are indicative of health equity and disparities.**

20 **(e) Promoting health awareness educational media campaigns.**

21 **C. To assist in carrying out its duties pursuant to this Section, the**
22 **Louisiana Department of Health may analyze any other relevant data which will**
23 **add to the work of the department, seek input from any interested parties**
24 **including but not limited to licensed health care professionals, advocates, and**
25 **concerned citizens, pursue any relevant topics including policies and laws that**
26 **impact health disparities, and promote community outreach and extension**
27 **activities.**

28 Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not
29 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature

1 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If
 2 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become
 3 effective on the day following such approval.

The original instrument was prepared by Brandi Cannon. The following digest, which does not constitute a part of the legislative instrument, was prepared by Martha Hess.

DIGEST

SB 133 Reengrossed

2021 Regular Session

Barrow

Proposed law provides that the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH), in addition to the other powers and duties conferred upon it by law, shall serve as a foundation and resource for addressing health care disparities for women and vulnerable populations and contribute to the improvement of the health of Louisiana's citizens.

Proposed law provides that LDH 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.

Proposed law provides that LDH shall complete a thorough assessment of all state activities or services that may specifically impact the health or quality of life of women. Proposed law requires LDH to submit this assessment to the House and Senate committees on health and welfare no later than February 15, 2022.

Proposed law provides that LDH shall make available to health care professionals the best practices and protocols for treating communities with underlying medical conditions and health disparities by doing certain enumerated tasks.

Proposed law provides that LDH may analyze any other relevant data which will add to the work of the department, seek input from any interested parties including but not limited to licensed health care professionals, advocates, and concerned citizens, pursue any relevant topics including policies and laws that impact health disparities, and promote community outreach and extension activities.

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

(Adds R.S. 40:1263)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

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

1. Adds the requirement for LDH to address health care disparities for women.
2. Establishes and provides a timeline for the division of women's health within LDH.
3. Provides for the staff, duties, and functions of the division.
4. Changes the effective date to upon signature of the governor.
5. Makes technical changes.

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Finance to the engrossed bill

1. Removes the provisions of proposed law that created the division of women's health and provided for the staff, duties, and functions of the division.