## SLS 22RS-403

## ORIGINAL

2022 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 116

BY SENATOR BARROW

HEALTH DEPARTMENT. Creates the office on women's health within the Louisiana Department of Health. (gov sig)

| 1  | AN ACT   |
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| 2  | To amend and reenact R.S. 36:251(C)(1) and to enact R.S. 36:258(E) and R.S. 46:2527, |
| 3  | relative to the office on women's health; to establish and provide for the office on |
| 4  | women's health within the Louisiana Department of Health; to provide for an          |
| 5  | assistant secretary and staff of the office on women's health; to provide for the    |
| 6  | purposes, duties, and functions of the office on women's health; to provide for an   |
| 7  | effective date; and to provide for related matters.                                  |
| 8  | Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:                                       |
| 9  | Section 1. R.S. 36:251(C)(1) is hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 36:258(E)      |
| 10 | is hereby enacted to read as follows:  |
| 11 | §251. Louisiana Department of Health ; creation; domicile; composition; purpose      |
| 12 | and functions  |
| 13 | * * *  |
| 14 | C.(1) The Louisiana Department of Health shall be composed of the                    |
| 15 | executive office of the secretary, the office of management and finance, the office  |
| 16 | of public health, the office of behavioral health, the office for citizens with      |
| 17 | developmental disabilities, the office of aging and adult services, the office on    |
|    |  |

Page 1 of 3 Coding: Words which are struck through are deletions from existing law; words in **boldface type and underscored** are additions.

| 1  | women's health, and such other offices as shall be created by law.                 |
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| 2  | * * *  |
| 3  | §258. Offices; purposes and functions  |
| 4  | * * *  |
| 5  | E. The office on women's health shall be responsible for leading and               |
| 6  | coordinating efforts across the state that are intended to improve women's         |
| 7  | health outcomes through policy, education, evidence-based practices, programs,     |
| 8  | and services. The office on women's health shall serve as a clearinghouse,         |
| 9  | coordinating agency, and resource center for women's health data and               |
| 10 | strategies and initiatives that address women's health-related concerns.           |
| 11 | * * *  |
| 12 | Section 2. R.S. 46:2527 is hereby enacted to read as follows:                      |
| 13 | §2527. Office on women's health; assistant secretary; duties and functions         |
| 14 | A. The office on women's health is hereby created in the Louisiana                 |
| 15 | Department of Health. The office shall perform the duties and functions            |
| 16 | assigned to it in Subsection C of this Section or as otherwise provided by law     |
| 17 | with a focus on all of the following:  |
| 18 | (1) Health needs throughout a woman's life.  |
| 19 | (2) Chronic conditions that significantly affect women, such as heart              |
| 20 | disease, cancer, and osteoporosis.   |
| 21 | (3) Access to health care for women.   |
| 22 | (4) The impact of poverty on women's health.                                       |
| 23 | (5) The leading causes of morbidity and mortality for women.                       |
| 24 | (6) Health disparities of women.   |
| 25 | <b>B.</b> The office on women's health shall be under the immediate                |
| 26 | supervision of an assistant secretary appointed by the governor in accordance      |
| 27 | with the provisions of R.S. 36:257. The assistant secretary shall employ           |
| 28 | necessary staff to carry out the duties and functions of the office as provided in |
| 29 | this Section or as otherwise provided by law.                                      |

| 1  | <b>C. In carrying out its purposes as provided for in R.S. 36:258, the office</b>             |
|----|---|
| 2  | on women's health may do any of the following:  |
| 3  | (1) Collect, classify, and analyze relevant information and data resulting                    |
| 4  | from research conducted or compiled by the Louisiana Department of Health                     |
| 5  | or other collaborative entities.  |
| 6  | (2) Prepare educational or informative materials regarding women's                            |
| 7  | health for publication and dissemination to the public.                                       |
| 8  | D. The office on women's health shall coordinate the activities and                           |
| 9  | programs of the office on women's health with other entities that focus on                    |
| 10 | women's health or women's issues.   |
| 11 | <b>E.</b> The office on women's health shall provide an annual report to the                  |
| 12 | governor, legislature, and secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health                    |
| 13 | recommending priorities and areas of improvement for women's health in                        |
| 14 | Louisiana. The report shall be issued no later than April first of each year.                 |
| 15 | Section 3. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not          |
| 16 | signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature |
| 17 | by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If  |
| 18 | vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become    |
| 19 | effective on the day following such approval.   |
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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Brandi Cannon.

|                 | DIGEST               |        |
|-----------------|----------------------|--------|
| SB 116 Original | 2022 Regular Session | Barrow |

<u>Proposed law</u> creates the office on women's health within the La. Department of Health to lead, consolidate, and coordinate efforts across the state to improve women's health outcomes through policy, education, evidence-based practices, programs, and services.

<u>Proposed law</u> 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)