

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 587

BY REPRESENTATIVE MOORE

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

HEALTH CARE/PROVIDERS: Provides relative to the Louisiana Community Health Worker Workforce Board

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AN ACT

To enact R.S. 36:259(B)(19) and Chapter 61 of Title 37 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, to be comprised of R.S. 37:3721 through 3726, relative to community health workers; to create the Louisiana Community Health Worker Workforce Board within the Louisiana Department of Health; to provide for the powers and duties of the board; to provide for the board membership; to authorize the board to develop training practices for community health workers; to provide for rulemaking authority; to provide for termination of the board; to provide relative to board governance; to provide relative to the powers and duties of the Louisiana Department of Health with respect to the board and community health workers; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 36:259(B)(19) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§259. Transfer of agencies and functions to Louisiana Department of Health

* * *

B. The following agencies are placed within the Louisiana Department of Health and shall exercise and perform their powers, duties, functions, and responsibilities as otherwise provided by law:

* * *

1 (5) The chair of the Louisiana Community Health Outreach Network or his
2 designee.

3 (6) Six community health workers representing community-based
4 organizations. The six community health workers shall be appointed by the governor
5 from a list of community health workers recommended by the ten human services
6 districts and authorities provided in R.S. 28:912. The community health workers
7 shall represent all areas of the state, including rural areas.

8 §3724. Board powers and duties

9 A. The board shall meet twice a year. Members of the board shall serve
10 without compensation.

11 B. The Louisiana State University Health Science Center, Center for
12 Healthcare Value and Equity, shall provide staffing for the board.

13 C. The board shall develop all of the following:

14 (1) A recommended program to enhance employer readiness in hiring
15 community health workers.

16 (2) Recommendations for core skills, roles, and competencies for community
17 health workers in Louisiana.

18 (3) Recommended standards and requirements for community health worker
19 education and training programs, including recommended standards for community
20 health worker educators.

21 (4) Recommendations for sustainable methods of financing for community
22 health worker services.

23 D. The board may do all of the following:

24 (1) Review community health worker training programs.

25 (2) Make recommendations to community health worker training programs.

26 (3) Track employment of community health workers in Louisiana from
27 information provided voluntarily to the board by entities such as employers or
28 community-based organizations.

1 §3725. Department powers and duties

2 The department, in consultation with the board, may adopt rules pursuant to

3 the Administrative Procedure Act to implement core skills, roles, and competencies

4 for community health workers; to implement standards and requirements for

5 community health worker education and training programs; and to implement

6 standards for community health worker education.

7 §3726. Termination

8 The Board shall terminate operations on December 31, 2028.

9 Section 2. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the Louisiana

10 Community Health Worker Workforce Board shall elect a chair at its first meeting.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 587 Reengrossed 2023 Regular Session Moore

Abstract: Establishes the La. Community Health Worker Workforce Board ("board") and sets forth the powers, duties, and obligations of the board and the La. Dept. of Health with respect to the board.

Proposed law establishes the board within the La. Dept. of Health. Further provides definitions for proposed law, including defining "community health worker" to mean an individual who serves as a liaison for community members to facilitate access to health and social services and to improve quality and cultural competence of service delivery through outreach, education, support and advocacy. Further provides that the term "community health worker" as used in proposed law does not include an individual who provides clinical services.

Proposed law provides the board consist of 11 members, as follows:

- (1) The director of the Community Health Worker Institute at La. State University Health Sciences Center at New Orleans or his designee.
- (2) A member of the board of directors of the La. Public Health Institute or his designee.
- (3) The secretary of the La. Dept. of Health or his designee.
- (4) The Medicaid executive director in this state or his designee.
- (5) The chair of the La. Community Health Outreach Network or his designee.
- (6) Six community health workers representing community-based organizations. Further requires such members be appointed by the governor from a list of community health workers recommended by the ten human services districts and

authorities provided in present law. Requires such community health workers to represent all areas of the state, including rural areas.

Proposed law requires the board to meet twice a year and further requires members of the board to serve without compensation.

Proposed law requires the La. State University Health Science Center, Center for Healthcare Value and Equity, to provide staffing for the board.

Proposed law requires the board to develop all of the following:

- (1) A recommended program to enhance employer readiness in hiring community health workers.
- (2) Recommendations for core skills, roles, and competencies for community health workers in Louisiana.
- (3) Recommended standards and requirements for community health worker education and training programs, including recommended standards for community health worker educators.
- (4) Recommendations for sustainable methods of financing for community health worker services.

In addition to the above requirements, proposed law authorizes the board to do any of the following:

- (1) Review community health worker training programs.
- (2) Make recommendations to community health worker training programs.
- (3) Track employment of community health workers in Louisiana from information provided voluntarily to the board by entities such as employers or community-based organizations.

Proposed law authorizes the La. Dept. of Health, in consultation with the board, to adopt rules pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act to implement core skills, roles, and competencies for community health workers; to implement standards and requirements for community health worker education and training programs; and to implement standards for community health worker education.

Proposed law terminates the board effective December 31, 2028.

Proposed law further requires the board at its first meeting to elect a chair.

(Adds R.S. 36:259(B)(19) and R.S. 37:3721-3726)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

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

1. Add a Chapter title.
2. Change the number of members on the Workforce Board from 23 to 11.
3. Add a majority requirement for the inclusion of community health workers on the board.

4. Remove the dean of the Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine from the board and add a member from the board of directors of the La. Public Health Institute to the board.
5. Remove the assistant secretary of the La. Dept. of Health from the board.
6. Remove the representative of the La. Managed Medicaid Assoc. and certain other members from the board.
7. Change the amount of community health workers representing community-based organizations from 11 to six.
8. Require the La. Community Health Outreach Network to appoint members instead of the governor.
9. Remove members appointed by the president of the Senate and the speaker of the House of Representatives from the board.
10. Delete the duty of the board to develop a certification program for community health workers.
11. Add language that requires the board to meet quarterly and establishes certain accessibility requirements.
12. Make technical corrections.

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Appropriations to the engrossed bill:

1. Provide definitions for proposed law.
2. Remove requirement that the secretary of the La. Dept. of Health or his designee have expertise in community partnerships and health equity.
3. Remove requirement that the Medicaid executive director in this state or his designee have expertise in clinical innovation.
4. Remove requirement that the six community health workers on the board be appointed by the La. Community Health Outreach Network. Instead require these members to be appointed by the Governor from recommendations by the 10 human services districts in present law.
5. Establish the powers and duties of the board.
6. Require the La. State University Health Science Center, Center for Healthcare Value and Equity, to provide staffing for the board.
7. Establish certain recommendations that the board must develop.
8. Set forth certain reviews and recommendations that the board may undertake.
9. Remove requirement that the board adopt rules pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act to implement proposed law.
10. Authorize the La. Dept. of Health to adopt rules pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act based on recommendations from the board.
11. Provide that the board shall terminate on Dec. 31, 2028.
12. Make technical and conforming changes.