

ACT No. 182

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 587

BY REPRESENTATIVE MOORE

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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:

* * *

(19) The Louisiana Community Health Worker Workforce Board (R.S. 37:3721 et seq.).

* * *

1 Section 2. Chapter 61 of Title 37 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950,
2 comprised of R.S. 37:3721 through 3726, is hereby enacted to read as follows:

3 CHAPTER 61. LOUISIANA COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER WORKFORCE

4 §3721. Short Title

5 This Chapter shall be known and may be cited as the "Louisiana Community
6 Health Worker Workforce Act".

7 §3722. Definitions

8 As used in this Chapter, except where the context clearly requires otherwise,
9 the following words and phrases shall have the following meanings:

10 (1) "Community health worker" means an individual who serves as a liaison
11 for community members to facilitate access to health and social services and to
12 improve quality and cultural competence of service delivery through outreach,
13 education, support, and advocacy. "Community health worker" does not include an
14 individual who provides clinical services.

15 (2) "Department" means the Louisiana Department of Health.

16 §3723. Community Health Worker Workforce Board

17 There is hereby created a Louisiana Community Health Worker Workforce
18 Board, hereafter referred to in this Chapter as the "board", within the Louisiana
19 Department of Health. It shall consist of eleven members to include a majority of
20 community health workers. The board shall consist of the following members:

21 (1) The director of the Community Health Worker Institute at Louisiana
22 State University Health Sciences Center at New Orleans or his designee.

23 (2) A member of the board of directors of the Louisiana Public Health
24 Institute or his designee.

25 (3) The secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health or his designee.

26 (4) The Medicaid executive director in this state or his designee.

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

29 (6) Six community health workers representing community-based
30 organizations. The six community health workers shall be appointed by the governor

1 from a list of community health workers recommended by the ten human services
 2 districts and authorities provided in R.S. 28:912 and developed in consultation with
 3 the Louisiana Community Health Outreach Network. The community health
 4 workers shall represent all areas of the state, including rural areas.

5 §3724. Board powers and duties

6 A. The board shall meet twice a year. Members of the board shall serve
 7 without compensation.

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

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

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

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

15 (3) Recommended standards and requirements for community health worker
 16 education and training programs, including recommended standards for community
 17 health worker educators.

18 (4) Recommendations for sustainable methods of financing for community
 19 health worker services.

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

21 (1) Review community health worker training programs.

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

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

26 §3725. Department powers and duties

27 The department, in consultation with the board, may adopt rules pursuant to
 28 the Administrative Procedure Act to implement core skills, roles, and competencies
 29 for community health workers; to implement standards and requirements for

1 community health worker education and training programs; and to implement
2 standards for community health worker education.

3 §3726. Termination

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

5 Section 2. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the Louisiana
6 Community Health Worker Workforce Board shall elect a chair at its first meeting.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____