

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT

HB 137

2024 Regular Session

Brass

May 29, 2024

To the Honorable Speaker and Members of the House of Representatives and the Honorable President and Members of the Senate.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We, the conferees appointed to confer over the disagreement between the two houses concerning House Bill No. 137 by Representative Brass, recommend the following concerning the Reengrossed bill:

- 1. That Senate Committee Amendments Nos. 1 through 3 by the Committee on Health and Welfare (#2891) be adopted.
- 2. That the following amendment to the Reengrossed bill be adopted:

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 4, after line 17, add the following:

"Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become effective on the day following such approval."

Respectfully submitted,

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Representative Kendrick "Ken" Brass

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Senator Patrick McMath

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Representative Dustin Miller

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Senator Blake Miguez

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Representative Vanessa Caston LaFleur

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Senator Edward J. "Ed" Price

**CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT DIGEST**

**HB 137**

**2024 Regular Session**

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**Keyword and oneliner of the instrument as it left the House**

CHILDREN: Provides relative to the Children's Cabinet Advisory Board

**Report adopts Senate amendments to:**

1. Remove the option to have a designee for certain members of the Children's Cabinet.

**Report amends the bill to:**

1. Add that proposed law will be effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

**Digest of the bill as proposed by the Conference Committee**

Present law provides for the membership of the Children's Cabinet.

Proposed law grants the following Children's Cabinet members the option to appoint a designee:

- (1) The secretary of the Dept. of Children and Family Services.
- (2) The secretary of the La. Dept. of Health.
- (3) The deputy secretary for youth services of the Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections.
- (4) The secretary of the La. Workforce Commission.
- (5) The state superintendent of education.
- (6) The commissioner of administration.
- (7) The secretary of the Dept. of Economic Development.

Present law directs the Children's Cabinet Advisory Board (board) to make recommendations to the cabinet as to budget priorities for the coming year by Aug. 31 annually.

Present law directs the board to make recommendations to the cabinet as to specific budget items to be supported in the Children's Budget by Nov. 30 annually.

Proposed law combines the board's recommendations to the cabinet as to budget priorities and specific budget items into one recommendation required to be submitted annually by Sept. 30.

Proposed law adds the state child ombudsman as a nonvoting ex officio member of the board.

Proposed law repeals board membership for a representative of the La. Assoc. of Nonprofit Organizations.

Proposed law permits the board to establish subcommittees including an Ezekiel's Law subcommittee.

Present law provides for the membership of the board.

Proposed law adds a representative of the La. Occupational Therapy Association.

Proposed law grants the following board members the option to appoint a designee:

- (1) The director of the State Head Start Collaboration Project.
- (2) The assistant secretary of child welfare of the Dept. of Children and Family Services.
- (3) The assistant secretary of the office of citizens with developmental disabilities of the La. Dept. of Health (LDH).
- (4) The assistant secretary of the office of public health of LDH.
- (5) The assistant secretary of the office of behavioral health of LDH.
- (6) The assistant secretary of the bureau of health services financing of LDH.
- (7) The assistant secretary of the office of juvenile justice of the Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections.

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

(Amends R.S. 46:2602(B)(1)-(6) and (13) and 2605(A) and (B)(7), (11), (13)-(16), (19), and (29); Adds R.S. 46:2605(B)(42) and (G))