

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 525

BY REPRESENTATIVE WALTERS

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 36:259(B)(22) and R.S. 40:1104, relative to the creation of the Uterine
3 Fibroids Commission; to provide for membership of the commission; to provide for
4 functions of commission; to provide for organization of the commission; to require
5 an annual report; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 36:259(B)(22) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

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

9 * * *

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

13 * * *

14 (22) Uterine Fibroids Commission.

15 * * *

16 Section 2. R.S. 40:1104 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

17 §1104. Uterine Fibroids Commission

18 A. There is hereby established within the Louisiana Department of Health,
19 office on women's health and community health, the Uterine Fibroids Commission.

20 B. The commission shall be comprised of the following members:

21 (1) One member from the Louisiana State Nurses Association.

22 (2) One member from the Louisiana Primary Care Association.

1 (3) One member from the Christus Health System.

2 (4) One member from the Southern University and Agricultural and
3 Mechanical College School of Nursing.

4 (5) One member from the Tulane University School of Public Health.

5 (6) One member from the Our Lady of the Lake Health System.

6 (7) One member from the Louisiana Hospital Association.

7 (8) Two members who are individuals living with uterine fibroids, polycystic
8 ovary syndrome, or endometriosis.

9 (9) One member from the Louisiana House of Representatives.

10 (10) One member from the Louisiana Senate.

11 (11) One member who is the executive director of the governor's office on
12 women's policy.

13 (12) One member from the Ochsner Health System.

14 (13) One member from Woman's Hospital of Baton Rouge.

15 C.(1) The members listed in Paragraphs (B)(1) through (7) and (12) and (13)
16 of this Section shall be appointed by the governor from a list of qualified candidates
17 nominated by the respective organizations.

18 (2) The members listed in Paragraph (B)(8) of this Section shall be appointed
19 by the governor from a list of self-identified individuals interested in serving on the
20 commission.

21 (3) The members listed in Paragraphs (B)(9) and (10) of this Section shall
22 be appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives and the president of the
23 Senate, respectively.

24 D. Each member shall serve at the pleasure of the appointing authority. Each
25 member appointed by the governor shall be subject to Senate confirmation.

26 E.(1) The commission shall adopt rules and regulations to provide for the
27 governance of the commission. Such rules and regulations shall include but not be
28 limited to procedures and grounds for the removal of any commission member.

1 (2) Procedures for filling a vacancy created by the removal, resignation, or
2 death of any commission member prior to the end of the commission member's term
3 shall follow those used for initial appointments.

4 F. Each commission member shall serve without compensation. Legislators
5 shall receive the same per diem and travel reimbursement for attending a meeting of
6 the commission as is normally provided for members of the legislature.
7 Nonlegislative commission members may receive reimbursement for expenses in
8 accordance with the guidelines of the entity they represent.

9 G. The chairman shall be elected by the commission for a term to be
10 determined by the commission.

11 H. The domicile of the commission shall be Baton Rouge.

12 I. The commission shall hold quarterly public meetings unless decided by
13 a vote of the commission or by order of the chairman.

14 J. The number of commission members necessary to constitute a quorum for
15 the transaction of business shall be one half of the entire membership of the
16 commission. A majority vote of the commission members constituting a quorum
17 shall be necessary for any action taken by the commission.

18 K. The Louisiana Department of Health shall provide administrative
19 assistance and serve as staff for the commission.

20 L. The functions of the commission shall be to:

21 (1) Evaluate functions and activities of existing groups focused on uterine
22 fibroids and other related conditions to collaborate with and engage stakeholders.

23 (2) Support and contextualize reporting on uterine fibroids and other related
24 conditions.

25 (3) Serve as an advisory body to the governor and the Louisiana Department
26 of Health on matters relating to uterine fibroids, polycystic ovary syndrome, and
27 endometriosis.

28 (4) Research and review all state regulations, guidelines, policies, and
29 procedures relative to prevention, treatment, and care of women living with uterine
30 fibroids and other related conditions and, when appropriate, make recommendations

1 to the governor, the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health, and the
 2 legislature.

3 (5) Provide a forum for an annual public hearing on matters relating to
 4 uterine fibroids and other related conditions and provide for other public comment
 5 and peer review on federal and state-funded programs related to uterine fibroids and
 6 other related conditions.

7 (6) Make recommendations on policy to ensure that the state establishes
 8 public health monitoring, advances research, and provides solutions for women
 9 battling uterine fibroids and other related conditions.

10 M. The commission shall submit an annual written report to the Senate and
 11 House committees on health and welfare at least sixty days prior to each regular
 12 session. The report shall include a summary of the data relevant to the functions set
 13 forth in Subsection L of this Section.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____