
DIGEST

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HB 944 Reengrossed

2026 Regular Session

Hilferty

Abstract: Creates the Women's Health Consortium.

Proposed law establishes the Women's Health Consortium (consortium) within the La. Dept. of Health (LDH), office on women's health and community health.

Proposed law provides for the membership of the consortium.

Proposed law provides for interested parties and stakeholders that the consortium may consult with on matters of women's health.

Proposed law provides that the consortium may engage and solicit, as necessary, input, recommendations, and guidance on issues pertaining to the advancement of women's health from interested parties and stakeholders.

Proposed law provides that the consortium shall adopt rules and regulations to provide for the governance of the consortium.

Proposed law further provides that the rules and regulations include but not be limited to procedures and grounds for the removal of any consortium member.

Proposed law provides that each consortium member will serve without compensation, except members may receive reimbursement for expenses in accordance with the guidelines of the entity they represent.

Proposed law requires the member from the Pennington Biomedical Research Center to serve as the initial chair for two years.

Proposed law further requires the consortium, after the initial two-year period, to elect a new chair every two years.

Proposed law provides that the consortium shall elect a vice chair and may elect other officers, if appropriate.

Proposed law provides that the domicile of the consortium shall be in East Baton Rouge Parish. Proposed law further provides that the consortium may hold meetings anywhere in the state.

Proposed law requires the consortium to hold quarterly meetings, unless decided by the members or by order of the chair.

Proposed law sets quorum requirements for official actions of the consortium. Further requires an affirmative vote of those present and voting.

Proposed law provides the procedure for the consortium to host special meetings.

Proposed law requires each member participating in the consortium to assist as needed in providing staff support.

Proposed law provides the functions of the consortium.

Proposed law requires the consortium to submit an annual written report that summarizes the activities of the consortium. Proposed law provides the time period for when the report shall be submitted and to whom it shall be submitted.

Proposed law establishes the "Funding Priority Program for Women's Health Initiatives" to plan and prioritize available resources to improve health outcomes.

Proposed law provides for definitions.

(Adds R.S. 36:259(B)(23) and R.S. 40:2526)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

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

1. Add members to the consortium and interested parties involved with the consortium.
2. Clarify the membership of the consortium and provide for interested parties working with the consortium.
3. Make technical corrections.

The House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill:

1. Make technical changes.
2. Clarify the methods required for the consortium to take an official action.