

SENATE BILL NO. 236

BY SENATOR OWEN AND REPRESENTATIVE CHASSION

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 46:450.5.1, relative to kidney disease; to provide for legislative intent; to  
3 provide for requirements for the Louisiana Department of Health; to provide for  
4 annual reviews; to provide for reporting; and to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 46:450.5.1 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

7 **§450.5.1. Chronic and rare kidney diseases; coverage; annual review**

8 **A. The legislature hereby finds all of the following:**

9 **(1) More than thirty-five million Americans currently suffer from kidney**  
10 **disease and millions more may not be aware that they are at risk for developing**  
11 **kidney disease in the future.**

12 **(2) There is a new era emerging of clinical innovation in kidney disease**  
13 **treatment, with the first-ever treatments approved by the United States Food**  
14 **and Drug Administration to slow the decline of kidney function in patients with**  
15 **chronic and rare kidney diseases.**

16 **(3) Although the main causes of kidney disease are diabetes and high**  
17 **blood pressure, kidney disease also has genetic and hereditary causes, including**  
18 **rare diseases that cause glomerulonephritis.**

19 **(4) According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, as**  
20 **many as nine out of ten Americans with chronic kidney disease are unaware**  
21 **they have it.**

22 **(5) If kidney disease is detected early through blood, urine, or other tests,**  
23 **it may be possible to slow its progression and delay the need for dialysis or**  
24 **transplant through lifestyle changes and pharmacological treatments.**

25 **(6) Dialysis and later stages of kidney disease are costly to the state and**  
26 **its healthcare system and often result in a patient leaving the workforce.**

1           **B. The legislature further finds that, considering the detrimental health**  
2           **effects of kidney disease in this state and the United States, its enormous impact**  
3           **on the lives of patients and their caregivers, and the avoidable costs to the state,**  
4           **its workforce, and the healthcare system of undetected or undertreated kidney**  
5           **disease, it is in the interest of the state to encourage the prevention, early**  
6           **screening, diagnosis, treatment, disparity of impact, and overall awareness and**  
7           **understanding of kidney disease in Louisiana.**

8           **C.(1) The Louisiana Department of Health shall conduct an annual**  
9           **review of all medications and forms of treatment for chronic and rare kidney**  
10           **diseases and services for enrollees with a diagnosis of chronic or rare kidney**  
11           **disease that are eligible for coverage under Medicaid. The purpose of the annual**  
12           **review is to determine if the available covered medications, treatments, and**  
13           **services are adequate to meet the needs of enrollees with a diagnosis of chronic**  
14           **or rare kidney disease, and whether the department should seek to add**  
15           **additional medications, treatments, or services.**

16           **(2) When conducting the annual review required by this Subsection, the**  
17           **department shall solicit and consider input from the general public, with**  
18           **specific emphasis on attempting to receive input from persons or groups with**  
19           **knowledge and experience in the area of chronic and rare kidney diseases.**

20           **D. The department shall examine and pursue strategic partnerships with**  
21           **state-based entities who represent or provide services to individuals living with**  
22           **chronic and rare kidney diseases for the purpose of increasing education,**  
23           **awareness, and diagnostic screening for chronic and rare kidney diseases,**  
24           **through new or existing initiatives including but not limited to Well-Ahead**  
25           **Louisiana.**

26           **E. On or before July 1, 2027, and on or before July first each year**  
27           **thereafter, the department shall submit a report to the president of the Senate,**  
28           **the speaker of the House of Representatives, the Senate Committee on Health**  
29           **and Welfare, the House Committee on Health and Welfare, and the David R.**  
30           **Poynter Legislative Research Library as required by R.S. 24:771 and 772. The**

1            report shall detail the department's findings from the annual review required  
2            by this Section, as well as any recommendations to the legislature based upon  
3            the department's findings. The department shall publish the annual report on  
4            its website in a manner accessible by the general public.

\_\_\_\_\_  
PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

\_\_\_\_\_  
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

\_\_\_\_\_  
GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_