
DIGEST

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HB 490 Engrossed

2017 Regular Session

Leger

Abstract: Establishes the Advisory Council on Heroin and Opioid Prevention and Education within the Drug Policy Board.

Proposed law requires the Drug Policy Board to establish an Advisory Council on Heroin and Opioid Prevention and Education to coordinate resources and expertise to assist in a statewide response.

Proposed law provides that the council shall consist of the following members:

- (1) The secretary of the La. Dept. of Health or his designee.
- (2) The secretary of the Dept. of Children and Family Services or his designee.
- (3) The state superintendent of education or his designee.
- (4) The secretary of the Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections or his designee.
- (5) The superintendent of state police or his designee.
- (6) The commissioner of higher education or his designee.
- (7) The secretary of the Dept. of Veterans Affairs or his designee.
- (8) The executive director of the La. Workforce Commission or his designee.
- (9) The president of the Senate or his designee.
- (10) The speaker of the House of Representatives or his designee.
- (11) The attorney general or his designee.
- (12) The commissioner of insurance or his designee.
- (13) A judge from a district drug court appointed by the chief justice of the La. Supreme Court.

Proposed law provides that the council shall also include nonvoting ex officio members who may advise and contribute to discussions pertaining to heroin and opioid prevention and education,

including but not limited to all of the following:

- (1) The executive director of the La. Board of Pharmacy or his designee.
- (2) The executive director of the La. State Board of Medical Examiners or his designee.
- (3) The president of the La. State Coroners Association or his designee.
- (4) The executive director of the La. Sheriffs' Association or his designee.
- (5) The executive director of the La. District Attorneys Association or his designee.
- (6) The president of the La. State Medical Society or his designee.
- (7) The president of the Chiropractic Association of La. or his designee.
- (8) The president of the La. Physical Therapy Association or his designee.
- (9) The executive director of the La. Association of Chiefs of Police or his designee.

Proposed law requires the council to serve in an advisory capacity to the board and establish an Interagency Heroin and Opioid Coordination Plan, which shall include but not be limited to all of the following:

- (1) Parish-level data on opioid overdoses and the dispensing of overdose-reversal medication.
- (2) Progress of current initiatives in the state relating to the heroin and opioid epidemic.
- (3) Specific impacts to agencies in addressing education, treatment, prevention, overdose, and recovery.

Proposed law requires the council to coordinate parish-level data on opioid overdoses and usage of overdose-reversal medication as current and accurate statewide data is critical in educating both those involved in policy development and the citizens of this state.

Proposed law requires the council to also coordinate a central online location to disseminate information and resources, including the Interagency Heroin and Opioid Coordination Plan.

Proposed law provides for the officers, quorum and voting requirements, compensation, domicile, staffing, and meeting requirements of the council.

(Adds R.S. 49:219.5)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

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

1. Change the requirement to report on the use of overdose-reversal medication to a requirement to report on the dispensing of overdose-reversal medication.
2. Clarify that each state department participating on the council shall assist with the staffing needs of the council.
3. Add the president of the Chiropractic Association of La., the president of the La. Physical Therapy Association, and the executive director of the La. Association of Chiefs of Police as ex officio members of the council.