

2018 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 658

BY REPRESENTATIVE LEGER

CHILDREN/NEWBORNS: Provides for a pilot project to improve outcomes associated with neonatal abstinence syndrome

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 40:1086.12, relative to neonatal opiate withdrawal syndrome; to provide for  
3 a pilot project; to provide for the creation of the pilot project; to provide for the  
4 duties of the Louisiana Department of Health in establishing the pilot project; to  
5 provide for definitions; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 40:1086.12 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

8 §1086.12. Neonatal opiate withdrawal syndrome pilot project

9 (1) For the purpose of this Section, the following definitions apply:

10 (a) "Department" means the Louisiana Department of Health.

11 (b) "Infant" includes both newborn and an infant.

12 (c) "Neonatal opiate withdrawal syndrome" means the postnatal opioid  
13 withdrawal experienced by an infant who is exposed in utero to prescribed or illicit  
14 opioids or agents used to treat maternal opioid addiction.

15 (2)(a) The department shall establish an evidence-based pilot project  
16 conducted by a multi-disciplinary team to treat infants with neonatal opiate  
17 withdrawal syndrome by providing care options that are safe alternatives to the  
18 intensive care unit in existing community or hospital settings for eligible  
19 mother-infant dyads. This pilot shall prioritize co-location of the mother-infant dyad,

1 maternal access to evidence-based treatment of substance use disorder, and  
2 promotion of practices that minimize harm and improve outcomes in infants, in  
3 keeping with up-to-date clinical evidence.

4 (2)(b) In order to scale evidence-based best practices statewide, the  
5 department shall convene stakeholders and providers from around the state in order  
6 to promote evidence-based care of infants with neonatal opiate withdrawal syndrome  
7 in partnership with the Louisiana Perinatal Quality Collaborative and the Louisiana  
8 Commission on Perinatal Care and Prevention of Infant Mortality.

9 (3) The department shall study comparative outcomes, risks, benefits, and  
10 cost differentials for the treatment of infants with neonatal opiate withdrawal  
11 syndrome in hospital and community settings included in this pilot program.

12 (4) The department shall take all steps necessary to implement this Section,  
13 including but not limited to the promulgation of rules and regulations in accordance  
14 with the Administrative Procedures Act, and may seek a waiver from the Centers for  
15 Medicare and Medicaid Services if needed.

16 (5) This pilot project is subject to specific appropriation by the legislature.

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#### DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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HB 658 Engrossed

2018 Regular Session

Leger

**Abstract:** Establishes a neonatal opiate withdrawal syndrome pilot project.

Proposed law creates a neonatal opiate withdrawal syndrome pilot project within the La. Dept. of Health (LDH).

Proposed law establishes the duties of LDH in implementing the pilot project.

Proposed law requires the pilot project to be an evidence-based pilot project conducted by a multi-disciplinary team to treat infants with neonatal opiate withdrawal syndrome by providing care options that are safe alternatives to the intensive care unit in existing community or hospital settings for eligible mother-infant dyads.

Proposed law adds that the pilot project is subject to specific appropriation by the legislature.

(Adds R.S. 40:1086.12)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

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

1. Change Perinatal Commission to La. Commission on Perinatal Care and Prevention of Infant Mortality.
2. Add language making the neonatal opiate withdrawal syndrome pilot project subject to specific appropriation by the legislature.