

2018 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 561 (Substitute of Senate Bill No. 455 by Senator Barrow)

BY SENATOR BARROW

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT. Creates the Empowering Families to Live Well Louisiana Act.
(gov sig)

1 AN ACT

2 To enact Chapter 5 of Title 51 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, to be comprised
3 of R.S. 51:1055 through 1058, relative to empowering families to live well; to create
4 the Empowering Families to Live Well Louisiana Council; to provide for a state
5 strategic plan; to provide for membership and duties of the council; to provide for
6 the Live Well Louisiana Fund; and to provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. Chapter 5 of Title 51 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950,
9 comprised of R.S. 51:1055 through 1058, is hereby enacted to read as follows:

10 **CHAPTER 5. EMPOWERING FAMILIES TO LIVE WELL LOUISIANA**

11 **§1055. Short title**

12 **This Chapter shall be named and may be cited as the "Empowering**
13 **Families to Live Well Louisiana Act".**

14 **§1056. Legislative findings; declaration of purpose**

15 **A.(1) The legislature finds that poverty is one of the greatest enemies of**
16 **human dignity and the family unit and undermines the general welfare of the**
17 **people of Louisiana and significant portions of the state suffers from the affects**

1 of poverty.

2 (2) The legislature further finds that the particular attention of state
3 government could benefit families in poverty with a coordinated and
4 well-managed plan provided by the departments of the state dedicated to
5 empowering these families.

6 (3) It is declared that the effective administration and coordination of
7 efforts to families in poverty is the responsibility of state government.

8 B. In order to meet these needs, the legislature hereby authorizes the
9 creation of the Empowering Families to Live Well Louisiana Council and
10 Strategic Plan, hereinafter referred to in this Chapter as the "plan".

11 §1057. Empowering Families to Live Well Louisiana Council and Strategic
12 Plan

13 A. There is hereby established the Empowering Families to Live Well
14 Louisiana Council to assist and empower struggling families throughout
15 Louisiana. The council is hereby established within the Department of Children
16 and Family Services which shall exercise and perform its powers, duties,
17 functions, and responsibilities in the manner provided for agencies transferred
18 in accordance with the provisions of applicable state law.

19 B. The council shall be composed of the following members:

20 (1) The secretary of the Department of Children and Family Services, or
21 designee.

22 (2) The secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health, or designee.

23 (3) The executive director of the Louisiana Workforce Commission, or
24 designee.

25 (4) The president of the Louisiana Community and Technical College
26 System, or designee.

27 (5) The secretary of Louisiana Economic Development, or designee.

28 (6) The secretary of the Louisiana Department of Revenue, or designee.

29 (7) The secretary of the Louisiana Department of Transportation and

1 Development, or designee.

2 (8) The superintendent of the Department of Education, or designee.

3 (9) The executive director of the Louisiana Housing Corporation, or
4 designee.

5 (10) The executive director of the Louisiana Office of Student Financial
6 Assistance, or designee.

7 (11) The chair of the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare, or
8 designee.

9 (12) The chair of the House of Representatives Committee on Health and
10 Welfare, or designee.

11 (13) Two members of the Senate, appointed by the Senate president.

12 (14) Two members of the House, appointed by the speaker of the House.

13 (15) The president/CEO of the Louisiana Association of United Ways, or
14 designee.

15 (16) The president of the Urban League of Louisiana, or designee.

16 (17) Two members representing regional economic development
17 organizations, appointed by the governor.

18 (18) The president of the Louisiana AFL/CIO, or designee.

19 (19) One member of the Louisiana State University faculty with expertise
20 in the area of poverty, appointed by the chancellor of the LSU system.

21 (20) One member of the Southern University system faculty with
22 expertise in the area of poverty, appointed by the president of Southern
23 University.

24 (21) One member of the University of Louisiana system faculty with
25 expertise in the area of poverty, appointed by the president of the system.

26 (22) One member of a Louisiana-based philanthropic organization,
27 appointed by the governor.

28 (23) One member of a Louisiana-based organization working to advance
29 affordable housing, appointed by the governor.

1 **(24) The executive director of the Louisiana Budget Project, or designee.**

2 **(25) The president of the Council for a Better Louisiana, or designee.**

3 **(26) The president of the Public Affairs Research Council of Louisiana,**
4 **or designee.**

5 **(27) The executive director of the Louisiana Interchurch Conference, or**
6 **designee.**

7 **(28) The executive director of the Children's Cabinet, or designee.**

8 **(29) The chair of the Children's Cabinet Advisory Board, or designee.**

9 **(30) Three at-large members appointed by the governor.**

10 **C.(1) The secretary of the Department of Children and Family Services,**
11 **or designee, and a member of the Senate, appointed by the Senate President,**
12 **shall serve as cochairs of the council.**

13 **(2) The council shall have as its purpose the goal of pursuing programs**
14 **and policies which reduce deprivation and hardship, while promoting the**
15 **well-being and health of all Louisianians. The council shall work to establish**
16 **public-private partnerships and seek private sector funding to be used with**
17 **public funds to support evidence-based, innovative solutions to poverty.**

18 **(3) The council may solicit guidance from in-state and national experts**
19 **on the subject.**

20 **(4) The council shall seek funding for grant programs targeted at local**
21 **government entities, nonprofit organizations, faith-based organizations, and**
22 **other qualified community-based organizations directly serving people in**
23 **Louisiana.**

24 **(5) The council may work to develop mechanisms to coordinate**
25 **assistance and services offered by state departments to best address the needs**
26 **of families throughout the state.**

27 **D.(1) The council shall adopt such rules and procedures as it shall find**
28 **necessary for the conduct of the activities and meetings of the council.**

29 **(2) No action shall be taken by the council except by a favorable vote of**

1 a majority of members present.

2 (3) The council shall elect such officers as it finds necessary.

3 (4) The council shall convene no less than six times per year.

4 (5) The council may establish subcommittees composed of a subset of
5 council members, as needed.

6 E. Members shall serve without compensation or reimbursement of
7 expenses, other than what may be afforded by their appointing authority.
8 Legislative members of the council shall receive the same per diem and
9 reimbursement of travel expenses as is provided for legislative committee
10 meetings under the rules of the respective house in which they serve.

11 F. The council shall make, or cause to be made, all such studies, reviews,
12 or analysis which it finds necessary for its purpose.

13 G. The council may receive and expend funds appropriated or otherwise
14 made available by the legislature or from any other source, including donations
15 or gifts of money or services from public or private organizations or from any
16 other sources, to be utilized for the purposes of the council.

17 H. The council shall submit an implementation plan to the Senate
18 Committee on Health and Welfare and the House Committee on Health and
19 Welfare, meeting jointly, for approval by June 30, 2019. The plan shall include
20 administrative and legislative policy recommendations. An interim report may
21 be filed prior to the 2019 Regular Session with legislative recommendations.

22 I. Thereafter, the council shall present an annual report on the
23 development of an implementation plan to the Senate Committee on Health and
24 Welfare and the House Committee on Health and Welfare, meeting jointly. This
25 report shall include a section from each state department that is a member of
26 the council, outlining administrative policy changes that can further the mission
27 of the council. The report shall also include legislative recommendations. The
28 report shall be submitted for approval to the Senate Committee on Health and
29 Welfare and the House Committee on Health and Welfare, meeting jointly, no

Provides that to assist and empower struggling families throughout Louisiana, the council will be established within the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) which will exercise and perform its powers, duties, functions, and responsibilities in the manner provided for agencies transferred in accordance with present law.

Provides for the composition of the membership of the council.

Requires the secretary of the Department of Children and Family Services, or designee, and a member of the Senate, appointed by the Senate President, to serve as cochairs of the council.

Provides that the council will have as its purpose the goal of pursuing programs and policies which reduce deprivation and hardship, while promoting the well-being and health of all Louisianians.

Requires the council will:

- (1) Work to establish public-private partnerships and seek private sector funding to be used with public funds to support evidence-based, innovative solutions to poverty.
- (2) May solicit guidance from in-state and national experts on the subject.
- (3) Seek funding for grant programs targeted at local government entities, nonprofit organizations, faith-based organizations, and other qualified community-based organizations directly serving people in Louisiana.
- (4) Work to develop mechanisms to coordinate assistance and services offered by state departments to best address the needs of families throughout the state.

Requires the council to adopt rules and procedures for conducting meeting.

Provides that the council may receive and expend funds appropriated or made available by the legislature or from any other source, including donations or gifts of money or services from public or private organizations or from any other sources, to be utilized for the purposes of the council.

Provides that the council will submit an implementation plan to the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare and the House Committee on Health and Welfare, meeting jointly, for approval by June 30, 2019. The plan will include administrative and legislative policy recommendations. An interim report may be filed prior to the 2019 Regular Session with legislative recommendations.

Provides that the council will present an annual report on the development of an implementation plan to the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare and the House Committee on Health and Welfare, meeting jointly, no later than January 31st of each year.

Authorizes the creation of a special fund, the "Live Well Louisiana Fund".

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Adds R.S. 51:1055-1058)