
DIGEST

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HB 397 Original

2021 Regular Session

White

Abstract: Authorizes the La. Dept. of Health to provide education and training to healthcare providers who treat patients suffering from Alzheimer's disease or other dementia diseases.

Proposed law states that the legislature is aware of the importance of early detection and timely diagnosis of cognitive impairment and dementia. Furthermore, proposed law provides that it is in the public interest that information shall be provided to better understand Alzheimer's disease and other dementia diseases and increase awareness. Also, proposed law states that it is public policy of the state to require the La. Dept. of Health (LDH) to provide consistent guidance and effective education programs to healthcare providers across the state.

Proposed law provides that LDH shall educate healthcare providers on the following:

- (1) The importance of effective care planning, including treatment options, support and services, long-term care options, advanced directives, and care at every stage of Alzheimer's disease and other dementia diseases to include appropriate counseling.
- (2) The use of validated cognitive assessment tools.

Proposed law requires the office of public health to provide information that does all of the following:

- (1) Increases the awareness of Alzheimer's disease and other dementia diseases including any link to chronic disease, such as vascular risk factors.
- (2) Advises the public of the value of early detection of Alzheimer's disease and other dementia diseases along with information on the early signs of such diseases.
- (3) Educates the public on the importance of identifying and reporting signs of Alzheimer's disease and other dementia diseases to healthcare providers for timely diagnosis.
- (4) Increases data and surveillance applicable to Alzheimer's disease and other dementia diseases and encourage additional data analysis and accurate reporting on death certificates.

Proposed law states that LDH shall promulgate rules and regulations in accordance with present law to comply with the provisions of proposed law. Further provides that the department shall consult with and seek input from the La. chapter of the Alzheimer's Association when promulgating such

rules and regulations.

Proposed law makes technical changes and corrections in present law.

(Adds R.S. 40:2200.7.1 and 2200.7.2)