

2021 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 397

BY REPRESENTATIVE WHITE

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

PUBLIC HEALTH: Provides relative to public health programs and services related to Alzheimer's disease and other dementias

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact the heading of Part XIV of Chapter 11 of Title 40 of the Louisiana
3 Revised Statutes of 1950 and to enact R.S. 40:2200.7.1 and 2200.7.2, relative to
4 Alzheimer's disease and other dementia diseases; to provide for education
5 concerning and awareness of such diseases; to provide for the early detection of such
6 diseases; to provide for the promulgation of rules by the Louisiana Department of
7 Health; to provide for the designation and organization of certain laws by the
8 Louisiana State Law Institute; and to provide for related matters.

9 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

10 Section 1. The heading of Part XIV of Chapter 11 of Title 40 of the Louisiana
11 Revised Statutes of 1950 is hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 40:2200.7.1 and
12 2200.7.2 are hereby enacted to read as follows:

13 PART XIV. ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE AND DEMENTIA TRAINING

14 * * *

15 §2200.7.1. Legislative intent

16 A. The legislature hereby finds and declares that:

17 (1) It is the intent of the legislature that existing health programs and
18 services educate healthcare professionals on the importance of early detection and
19 timely diagnosis of cognitive impairment and dementia.

1 (2) It is in the public interest to provide information to increase
2 understanding and awareness of Alzheimer's disease and other dementia diseases.

3 (3) It is the public policy of this state that healthcare providers in Louisiana
4 have access to guidance and education outreach programs regarding Alzheimer's
5 disease and other dementia diseases.

6 §2200.7.2. Alzheimer's and other dementia diseases training; rulemaking

7 A. The Louisiana Department of Health may in its existing public health
8 programs and services educate healthcare providers on all of the following:

9 (1) The importance of effective care planning, including treatment options,
10 support and services, long-term care options, advanced directives, and care at every
11 stage of Alzheimer's disease and other dementia diseases to include appropriate
12 counseling.

13 (2) The use of validated cognitive assessment tools.

14 B. The office of public health within the Louisiana Department of Health
15 may include provisions in its public health outreach programs that, at a minimum,
16 address the following:

17 (1) Increasing the awareness of Alzheimer's disease and other dementia
18 diseases including any link to chronic disease, such as vascular risk factors.

19 (2) Advising the public of the value of early detection of Alzheimer's disease
20 and other dementia diseases along with information on the early signs of such
21 diseases.

22 (3) Educating the public on the importance of identifying and reporting signs
23 of Alzheimer's disease and other dementia diseases to healthcare providers for timely
24 diagnosis.

25 (4) Increasing the data and surveillance applicable to Alzheimer's disease
26 and other dementia diseases and encouraging additional data analysis and accurate
27 reporting on death certificates.

28 C. The Louisiana Department of Health shall work with the Louisiana chapter
29 of the Alzheimer's Association to facilitate the distribution, by any means agreed

1 upon by the department and the association, of the educational materials prepared by
2 the association that address Alzheimer's disease and other dementia diseases.

3 D. The Louisiana Department of Health may promulgate rules and
4 regulations in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act as are necessary to
5 implement this Subpart. Such rules and regulations may include but not be limited
6 to the type of cognitive assessment tools available to healthcare providers. The
7 department shall consult with and seek input from the Louisiana chapter of the
8 Alzheimer's Association in the promulgation of such rules and regulations.

9 Section 2. (A) The Louisiana State Law Institute is hereby directed to designate R.S.
10 40:2200.1 through 2200.5 as Subpart A of Part XIV of Chapter 11 of Title 40 of the
11 Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, and is further directed to apply to the Subpart the
12 heading "Dementia Training".

13 (B) The Louisiana State Law Institute is hereby directed to designate R.S.
14 40:2200.7.1 and 2200.7.2, as enacted by Section 1 of this Act, as Subpart B of Part XIV of
15 Chapter 11 of Title 40 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, and is further directed to
16 apply to the Subpart the heading "Alzheimer's Disease and Other Dementia Diseases".

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)]

HB 397 Engrossed

2021 Regular Session

White

Abstract: Authorizes the Louisiana Department 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. Provides that it is in the public interest that information be provided to better understand Alzheimer's disease and other dementia diseases and increase awareness. Also, states that it is public policy of the state that the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) provide consistent guidance and effective education programs to healthcare providers across the state.

Proposed law provides that LDH may 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 states that the LDH office of public health may provide information that does all of the following:

- (1) Increases 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 encourages additional data analysis and accurate reporting on death certificates.

Proposed law authorizes LDH to 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 Louisiana chapter of the Alzheimer's Association when promulgating such rules and regulations.

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

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

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

1. Revise proposed law to provide all of the following:
 - a. Delete proposed law stating that it is the public policy of this state to require the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) to provide consistent guidance and effective education outreach programs to healthcare providers across the state, and add instead that it is the public policy of this state that healthcare providers in Louisiana have access to guidance and education outreach programs regarding Alzheimer's disease and other dementia diseases.
 - b. Add to proposed law a requirement that LDH work with the Louisiana chapter of the Alzheimer's Association to facilitate the distribution, by any means agreed upon by the department and the association, of the educational materials prepared by the association that address Alzheimer's disease and other dementia diseases.
 - c. Revise proposed law requiring that administrative rules of LDH include types of cognitive assessment tools to be available to healthcare providers to provide instead that such rules may include these cognitive tools.
2. Revise proposed law that mandates LDH to educate, provide outreach programs, and promulgate rules and regulations and add instead an authorization for LDH to perform these functions.
3. Make technical changes.