
DIGEST

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HB 517 Original

2022 Regular Session

Selders

Abstract: Provides for the Medical Advisory Council and statewide medical director within DPS&C.

Present law (R.S. 15:827) provides relative to the duties of DPS&C.

Proposed law (R.S. 15:827(A)(10)) retains present law and adds an additional duty of hiring a department medical director.

Proposed law provides that the department medical director shall be responsible for the delivery of services for persons sentenced to state custody.

Proposed law (R.S. 15:827.4) provides that the secretary of DPS&C shall hire a statewide medical director, subject to approval of the DPS&C Medical Advisory Council.

Proposed law provides for the criteria of the DPS&C medical director as both of the following:

- (1) Be a full-time employee of DPS&C.
- (2) Not be engaged in the practice of medicine outside of DPS&C.

Proposed law provides that the medical director shall be compensated comparably with equivalent roles in the state's public health system.

Proposed law creates the DPS&C Medical Advisory Council composed of 13 members from each of the following disciplines or associations: orthopedic surgery; obstetrics or gynecology; cardiology; interventional pain management; family practice; physical and occupational medicine; oncology; psychology or psychiatry; general internal medicine; La. State University School of Medicine dean, or designee; Tulane Medical School dean, or designee; Xavier University College of Pharmacy, or designee; and La. Dept. of Health director, or designee.

Present law provides that the professional association that represents each discipline shall provide the secretary with three nominees. Provides that the secretary shall choose the representative to represent their respective discipline on the council and that the secretary may appoint additional representatives.

Proposed law provides that the council shall advise DPS&C on the following:

- (1) Hiring and retaining the DPS&C medical director.
- (2) Departmental policies.
- (3) Post-mortem review.
- (4) Approval of health electronic records system.
- (5) Other reasonably related responsibilities.

Proposed law provides that the council elect a chair, vice chair, and secretary and hold annual meetings.

Proposed law provides the initial council members shall serve until Aug. 14, 2025. All subsequent members shall serve three-year terms beginning on Aug. 15th of each successive term.

Proposed law provides that the secretary shall have authority to contract with consultants to assist council and medical director.

Present law (R.S. 15:831) provides for the medical care of inmates. Provides that the DPS&C secretary shall establish standards for health, medical, and dental services for each institution.

Proposed law retains present law and provides that the Medical Advisory Council shall advise the DPS&C secretary.

(Amends R.S. 15:831(A); Adds R.S. 15:827(A)(10) and 827.4)