

HOUSE SUMMARY OF SENATE AMENDMENTS

HB 587

2023 Regular Session

Moore

HEALTH CARE/PROVIDERS: Provides relative to the Louisiana Community Health Worker Workforce Board

Synopsis of Senate Amendments

1. Requires the community health workers to be appointed by the governor from a list of community health workers recommended by the districts and authorities provided in present law and developed in consultation with the Louisiana Community Health Outreach Network.

Proposed law establishes the board within the La. Dept. of Health. Further provides definitions for proposed law, including defining "community health worker" to mean an individual who serves as a liaison for community members to facilitate access to health and social services and to improve quality and cultural competence of service delivery through outreach, education, support and advocacy. Further provides that the term "community health worker" as used in proposed law does not include an individual who provides clinical services.

Proposed law provides the board consist of 11 members, as follows:

- (1) The director of the Community Health Worker Institute at La. State University Health Sciences Center at New Orleans or his designee.
- (2) A member of the board of directors of the La. Public Health Institute or his designee.
- (3) The secretary of the La. Dept. of Health or his designee.
- (4) The Medicaid executive director in this state or his designee.
- (5) The chair of the La. Community Health Outreach Network or his designee.
- (6) Six community health workers representing community-based organizations. Further requires such members be appointed by the governor from a list of community health workers recommended by the ten human services districts and authorities provided in present law and developed in consultation with the Louisiana Community Health Outreach Network. Requires such community health workers to represent all areas of the state, including rural areas.

Proposed law requires the board to meet twice a year and further requires members of the board to serve without compensation.

Proposed law requires the La. State University Health Science Center, Center for Healthcare Value and Equity, to provide staffing for the board.

Proposed law requires the board to develop all of the following:

- (1) A recommended program to enhance employer readiness in hiring community health workers.
- (2) Recommendations for core skills, roles, and competencies for community health workers in Louisiana.
- (3) Recommended standards and requirements for community health worker education

and training programs, including recommended standards for community health worker educators.

- (4) Recommendations for sustainable methods of financing for community health worker services.

In addition to the above requirements, proposed law authorizes the board to do any of the following:

- (1) Review community health worker training programs.
- (2) Make recommendations to community health worker training programs.
- (3) Track employment of community health workers in Louisiana from information provided voluntarily to the board by entities such as employers or community-based organizations.

Proposed law authorizes the La. Dept. of Health, in consultation with the board, to adopt rules pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act to implement core skills, roles, and competencies for community health workers; to implement standards and requirements for community health worker education and training programs; and to implement standards for community health worker education.

Proposed law terminates the board effective December 31, 2028.

Proposed law further requires the board at its first meeting to elect a chair.

(Adds R.S. 36:259(B)(19) and R.S. 37:3721-3726)