

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 137

BY REPRESENTATIVE BRASS

CHILDREN: Provides relative to the Children's Cabinet Advisory Board

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 46:2602(B) and 2605(A) and (B)(7), (11), (13) through (16),
3 (19), and (29) and to enact R.S. 46:2605(B)(42) and (G), relative to the Children's
4 Cabinet and the Children's Cabinet Advisory Board; to provide for membership of
5 the cabinet; to provide for membership of the board; to provide for duties of the
6 board; to authorize the board to establish subcommittees; and to provide for related
7 matters.

8 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

9 Section 1. R.S. 46:2602(B) and 2605(A) and (B)(7), (11), (13) through (16), (19),
10 and (29) are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 46:2605(B)(42) and (G) are hereby
11 enacted to read as follows:

12 §2602. Children's Cabinet; creation; purpose

13 * * *

14 B. The cabinet shall be composed of the following members:

15 (1) The secretary of the Department of Children and Family Services or his
16 designee.

17 (2) The secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health or his designee.

18 (3) The deputy secretary for youth services of the Department of Public
19 Safety and Corrections or his designee.

20 (4) The secretary of the Louisiana Workforce Commission or his designee.

1 (5) The state superintendent of education or his designee.

2 (6) The commissioner of administration or his designee.

3 (7) The executive director of the cabinet, to be determined by the governor,
4 or his designee who shall serve as chairperson.

5 (8) A member of the House of Representatives appointed by the speaker of
6 the House of Representatives or his designee.

7 (9) A member of the Senate appointed by the president of the Senate or his
8 designee.

9 (10) A representative of the Children's Cabinet Advisory Board as selected
10 by its members or his designee.

11 (11) A member of the Louisiana Council of Juvenile and Family Court
12 Judges appointed by the chief justice of the Louisiana Supreme Court or his
13 designee.

14 (12) A member of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education
15 appointed by its president or his designee.

16 (13) The secretary of the Department of Economic Development or his
17 designee.

18 * * *

19 §2605. Children's Cabinet Advisory Board

20 A. The Children's Cabinet Advisory Board, hereinafter referred to as the
21 "advisory board", is hereby created. The purpose of the advisory board shall be to
22 provide information and recommendations from the perspective of advocacy groups,
23 service providers, and parents. Primary responsibilities of the Children's Cabinet
24 Advisory Board are:

25 (1) To ensure information sharing between governmental and
26 nongovernmental entities serving Louisiana's children.

27 (2) To make recommendations to the Children's Cabinet, through the
28 executive director, as requested by the Cabinet.

Proposed law adds the state child ombudsman as a nonvoting ex officio member of the board.

Proposed law repeals board membership for a representative of the La. Assoc. of Nonprofit Organizations.

Proposed law permits the board to establish subcommittees including an Ezekiel's Law subcommittee.

Proposed law adds a representative of the La. Occupational Therapy Association.

Proposed law grants the following board members the option to appoint a designee:

- (1) The director of the State Head Start Collaboration Project.
- (2) The assistant secretary of child welfare of the Dept. of Children and Family Services.
- (3) The assistant secretary of the office of citizens with developmental disabilities of the La. Dept. of Health (LDH).
- (4) The assistant secretary of the office of public health of LDH.
- (5) The assistant secretary of the office of behavioral health of LDH.
- (6) The assistant secretary of the bureau of health services financing of LDH.
- (7) The assistant secretary of the office of juvenile justice of the Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections.

Proposed law grants the following cabinet members the option to appoint a designee:

- (1) The secretary of the Dept. of Children and Family Services.
- (2) The secretary of the La. Dept. of Health.
- (3) The deputy secretary for youth services of the Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections.
- (4) The secretary of the La. Workforce Commission.
- (5) The state superintendent of education.
- (6) The commissioner of administration.
- (7) The executive director of the cabinet.
- (8) A member of the House appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives.
- (9) A member of the Senate appointed by the president of the Senate.
- (10) A representative of the Children's Cabinet Advisory Board as selected by its members.
- (11) A member of the La. Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges appointed by the chief justice of the La. Sup. Ct.
- (12) A member of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education appointed by its president.

(Amends R.S. 46:2602(B) and 2605(A) and (B)(7), (11), (13)-(16), (19), and (29); Adds R.S. 46:2605(B)(42) and (G))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

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

1. Add that the state ombudsman is a nonvoting ex officio member of the Children's Cabinet Advisory Board.

The House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill:

1. Add that the members of the Children's Cabinet may designate an individual to be a member of the cabinet in their stead.
2. Add a representative of the La. Occupational Therapy Association to the Children's Cabinet Advisory Board.