

2024 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 479

BY SENATOR DUPLESSIS

PUBLIC HEALTH. Creates the office of violence prevention in the Louisiana Department of Health. (8/1/24)

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AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 36:251(C)(1) and to enact R.S. 36:258(M) and Part I-B of Chapter 11 of Title 40 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, to be comprised of R.S. 40:2025.1 through 2025.3, relative to the creation of the office of violence prevention within the Louisiana Department of Health; to provide for purposes and functions of the office; to provide for legislative intent; to provide for reporting; to provide for authorized sources of funding; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 36:251(C)(1) is hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 36:258(M) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§251. Louisiana Department of Health; creation; domicile; composition; purpose and functions

\* \* \*

C.(1) The Louisiana Department of Health shall be composed of the executive office of the secretary, the office of management and finance, the office of public health, the office of behavioral health, the office for citizens with developmental disabilities, the office of aging and adult services, the office on

1 women's health and community health, **the office of violence prevention**, and such  
2 other offices as shall be created by law.

3 \* \* \*

4 §258. Offices; purposes and functions

5 \* \* \*

6 **M. The office of violence prevention shall be responsible for leading and**  
7 **coordinating efforts of the state relative to violence prevention research and**  
8 **making policy recommendations to reduce violence in the state.**

9 Section 2. Part I-B of Chapter 11 of Title 40 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of  
10 1950, comprised of R.S. 40:2025.1 through 2025.3, is hereby enacted to read as follows:

11 **PART I-B. OFFICE OF VIOLENCE PREVENTION**

12 **§2025.1. Legislative intent**

13 **The legislature of the state of Louisiana declares that violence shall be**  
14 **recognized and addressed as a public safety and health crisis utilizing a public**  
15 **safety and health data-based approach taking into consideration all of the**  
16 **following:**

17 **(1) The specifics of violence, including crimes of violence, gang violence,**  
18 **and domestic violence in each community, including but not limited to**  
19 **identification of those most affected, identification of contributing factors, and**  
20 **identification of factors creating greater safety for those most affected by**  
21 **violence in each community.**

22 **(2) The root causes of violence in the community, including but not**  
23 **limited to poverty, lack of quality education, lack of affordable housing, food**  
24 **insecurity, unemployment, untreated trauma, and the evaluation of community**  
25 **conditions. Evaluation of community conditions includes the comparison of**  
26 **community conditions and opportunities for communities with a high risk of**  
27 **violence and those with a lesser risk of violence in order to identify and create**  
28 **greater safety for high-risk communities through community surroundings. For**  
29 **the purposes of this Part, community surroundings include but are not limited**

1 to streets, parks, schools, community-based organizations, youth and  
2 community centers, and places of worship.

3 (3) A commitment for violence prevention efforts to focus on addressing  
4 and healing individual, interpersonal, and community trauma inflicted as a  
5 result of violence.

6 §2025.2. Office of violence prevention; purpose; plan of action

7 A. There is hereby established within the Louisiana Department of  
8 Health, the office of violence prevention, which shall exercise the powers and  
9 duties set forth in this Part or otherwise provided by law.

10 B. The purpose of the office shall be to develop a strategy through  
11 collaboration with other state agencies, as well as members of various  
12 communities including but not limited to youth, trusted community messengers,  
13 community-based organizations, faith leaders, grassroots organizers, political  
14 leaders, business owners, and other organizations and individuals with expertise  
15 in the field to identify causes of violence in a community, promote strategies  
16 supporting conflict resolution, and incorporate a public safety and health  
17 approach to improve social determinants of safety and health for communities  
18 most affected by violence.

19 C. The office shall submit an initial written plan of action to the  
20 legislature, no later than February 1, 2026, detailing how the office will  
21 incorporate a public safety and health approach to any violence  
22 prevention-related programs and services.

23 D. In creating the plan of action required by Subsection C of this Section,  
24 the office shall collaborate with those impacted by violence to identify and  
25 evaluate innovative and successful community-based violence prevention  
26 programs and focus on how any proposed programs and services may address  
27 trauma in communities with a high degree of violence.

28 E. The office may collaborate with institutions of higher learning and  
29 nongovernmental organizations to collect and evaluate information in

1 **developing the office's strategy and recommendations to combat violence in this**  
2 **state.**

3 **§2025.3. Sources of funding authorized**

4 **The office may receive and expend funds as may be necessary to carry**  
5 **out the requirements of this Part including but not limited to funds**  
6 **appropriated by the legislature, including any appropriation of federal funds,**  
7 **and any public or private donations, gifts, or grants from governmental sources,**  
8 **individuals, corporations, nonprofit organizations, business entities, and any**  
9 **other lawful source.**

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Amanda Trapp.

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DIGEST

SB 479 Original

2024 Regular Session

Duplessis

Proposed law creates the office of violence prevention within the Louisiana Department of Health to lead and coordinate efforts of the state relative to violence prevention research and to make policy recommendations to reduce violence in the state.

Proposed law provides for the duties and functions of the office, including reporting to the legislature.

Proposed law provides for sources of funds that may be utilized by the office.

Effective August 1, 2024.

(Amends R.S. 36:251(C)(1); adds R.S. 36:258(M) and R.S. 40:2025.1-2025.3)