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## DIGEST

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HB 559 Original

2025 Regular Session

Echols

**Abstract:** Provides for the collaborative effort of state and local governing bodies to improve health outcomes, creates of the Louisiana Population Health Coordinating Council (LPHCC), and the Statewide Population Health Strategy (SPHS).

Present law provides an enumerated list of provisions of present law that are applicable to all human services district and authority governing boards.

Proposed law adds the following requirements to the enumerated list:

- (1) The board shall implement all strategic and programmatic priorities of the SPHS, as developed and coordinated by the LPHCC and surgeon general.
- (2) The board shall collaborate with the executive director hired by the surgeon general.

Proposed law otherwise retains present law.

Present law requires all district and authority boards to adopt a mission, vision, and policy for the operation of the district or authority. Proposed law further requires the board to set policy as a body and employ an executive director.

Proposed law revises present law requiring the district and authority boards to adopt a policy to achieve the goals of the Statewide Population Health Strategy at the direction of the LPHCC and surgeon general.

Proposed law provides that the La. Dept. of Health (LDH) and the surgeon general shall have strategic oversight of the human services districts and authorities.

Proposed law provides that the human services districts and authorities shall continue to operate with local governance boards, but shall align all strategic and programmatic priorities with the SPHS as developed and coordinated by the LPHCC and the surgeon general.

Proposed law states that the surgeon general shall hire, evaluate, and terminate the executive director of each human services district or authority in accordance with the employment procedure of LDH.

Proposed law requires the executive director of a human services district or authority to report directly to the surgeon general and serve as a voting member of the LPHCC.

Proposed law establishes the LPHCC within LDH. Proposed law further provides for the makeup and selection of the membership of the council.

Proposed law states that members of the council shall serve without compensation. Proposed law also states the council shall be located in Baton Rouge and that the surgeon general shall be its chairman.

Proposed law requires the council to develop the SPHS. Proposed law further provides that the SPHS shall focus on measurable improvements in all of the following statewide outcomes:

- (1) A reduction in preventable hospitalizations and emergency room utilization.
- (2) A decrease in maternal and infant mortality and improvement in maternal health access.
- (3) An expansion of mental and behavioral health services, especially in under served and rural areas.
- (4) An increase in preventive care utilization including cancer screenings and vaccinations.
- (5) A decrease in opioid overdoses, overdose deaths, and substance use disorder relapse.
- (6) A reduction in racial and geographic disparities in health outcomes.
- (7) Improved care coordination for persons with developmental disabilities and mental illness.
- (8) Workforce development and retention for primary care, behavioral health, and public health professionals.

Proposed law requires LDH to do all of the following in order to reduce fraud, waste, and duplication:

- (1) Conduct annual programmatic and fiscal reviews across all human services districts and authorities.
- (2) Identify and eliminate initiatives that do not meet outcome benchmarks or show a return on investment.
- (3) Consolidate overlapping contracts and introduce performance-based funding models.
- (4) Expand the use of data analytics and shared dashboards to monitor performance and identify billing anomalies.
- (5) Establish whistleblower protections and anonymous reporting systems for suspected fraud or misuse of funds.

Proposed law requires LDH to submit a fraud, waste, and duplication report summarizing the fraud and waste reduction results of the actions to the appropriate entities as specified in proposed law.

Present law provides a list of agencies that are placed within LDH.

Proposed law adds the Louisiana Population Health Coordinating Council to this list. Proposed law otherwise retains present law.

(Amends R.S. 28:914(D)(1); Adds R.S. 28:913.7(7) and (8), 919, 920, and 921 and R.S. 36:259(B)(22))