

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 525

BY REPRESENTATIVE WALTERS

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

### HEALTH SERVICES: Creates the Uterine Fibroids Commission

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 36:259(B)(22) and R.S. 40:1104, relative to the creation of the Uterine  
3 Fibroids Commission; to provide for membership of the commission; to provide for  
4 functions of commission; to provide for organization of the commission; to require  
5 an annual report; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7           Section 1. R.S. 36:259(B)(22) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

8            §259. Transfer of agencies and functions to Louisiana Department of Health

9 \* \* \*

10                   B. The following agencies are placed within the Louisiana Department of  
11           Health and shall exercise and perform their powers, duties, functions, and  
12           responsibilities as otherwise provided by law:

13 \* \* \*

14 (22) Uterine Fibroids Commission.

15 \* \* \*

16           Section 2. R.S. 40:1104 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

17 §1104. Uterine Fibroids Commission

18                   A. There is hereby established within the Louisiana Department of Health,  
19                   office on women's health and community health, the Uterine Fibroids Commission.

1           B. The commission shall be comprised of the following members:

2           (1) One member from the Louisiana State Nurses Association.

3           (2) One member from the Louisiana Primary Care Association.

4           (3) One member from the Christus Health System.

5           (4) One member from the Southern University and Agricultural and  
6 Mechanical College School of Nursing.

7           (5) One member from the Tulane University School of Public Health.

8           (6) One member from the Our Lady of the Lake Health System.

9           (7) One member from the Louisiana Hospital Association.

10          (8) Two members who are individuals living with uterine fibroids, polycystic  
11 ovary syndrome, or endometriosis.

12          (9) One member from the Louisiana House of Representatives.

13          (10) One member from the Louisiana Senate.

14          (11) One member who is the executive director of the governor's office on  
15 women's policy.

16          (12) One member from the Ochsner Health System.

17          (13) One member from Woman's Hospital of Baton Rouge.

18          C.(1) The members listed in Paragraphs (B)(1) through (B)(7) of this Section  
19 shall be appointed by the governor from a list of qualified candidates nominated by  
20 the respective organizations.

21          (2) The members listed in Paragraph (B)(8) of this Section shall be appointed  
22 by the governor from a list of self-identified individuals interested in serving on the  
23 commission.

24          (3) The members listed in Paragraph (B)(9) and (B)(10) of this Section shall  
25 be appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives and the president of the  
26 Senate, respectively.

27          (4) The member listed in Paragraph (B)(12) of this Section shall be selected  
28 by the Ochsner Health System.

1           (5) The member listed in Paragraph (B)(13) of this Section shall be selected  
2           by the president of Woman's Hospital of Baton Rouge.

3           D. Each member shall serve at the pleasure of the appointing authority.

4           E.(1) The commission shall adopt rules and regulations to provide for the  
5           governance of the commission. Such rules and regulations shall include but not be  
6           limited to procedures and grounds for the removal of any commission member.

7           (2) The term of an appointee shall be four years.

8           (3) Procedures for filling a vacancy created by the removal, resignation, or  
9           death of any commission member prior to the end of the commission member's term  
10          shall follow those used for initial appointments.

11          F. Each commission member shall serve without compensation. Legislators  
12          shall receive the same per diem and travel reimbursement for attending a meeting of  
13          the commission as is normally provided for members of the legislature.  
14          Nonlegislative commission members may receive reimbursement for expenses in  
15          accordance with the guidelines of the entity they represent.

16          G. The chairman shall be elected by the commission for a term to be  
17          determined by the commission.

18          H. The domicile of the commission shall be Baton Rouge.

19          I. The commission shall hold quarterly public meetings unless decided by  
20          a vote of the commission or by order of the chairman.

21          J. The number of commission members necessary to constitute a quorum for  
22          the transaction of business shall be one half of the entire membership of the  
23          commission. A majority vote of the commission members constituting a quorum  
24          shall be necessary for any action taken by the commission.

25          K. The Louisiana Department of Health shall provide administrative  
26          assistance and serve as staff for the commission.

27          L. The functions of the commission shall be to:

28          (1) Evaluate functions and activities of existing groups focused on uterine  
29          fibroids and other related conditions to collaborate with and engage stakeholders.

1                   (2) Support and contextualize reporting on uterine fibroids and other related  
2                   conditions.

3                   (3) Serve as an advisory body to the governor and the Louisiana Department  
4                   of Health on matters relating to uterine fibroids, polycystic ovary syndrome, and  
5                   endometriosis.

6                   (4) Research and review all state regulations, guidelines, policies, and  
7                   procedures relative to prevention, treatment, and care of women living with uterine  
8                   fibroids and other related conditions and, when appropriate, make recommendations  
9                   to the governor, the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health, and the  
10                  legislature.

11                  (5) Provide a forum for an annual public hearing on matters relating to  
12                  uterine fibroids and other related conditions and provide for other public comment  
13                  and peer review on federal and state-funded programs related to uterine fibroids and  
14                  other related conditions.

15                  (6) Make recommendations on policy to ensure that the state establishes  
16                  public health monitoring, advances research, and provides solutions for women  
17                  battling uterine fibroids and other related conditions.

18                  M. The commission shall submit an annual written report to the Senate and  
19                  House committees on health and welfare at least sixty days prior to each regular  
20                  session. The report shall include a summary of the data relevant to the functions set  
21                  forth in Subsection L of this Section.

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#### DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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HB 525 Reengrossed

2025 Regular Session

Walters

**Abstract:** Creates the Uterine Fibroids Commission.

Proposed law establishes the Uterine Fibroids Commission.

Proposed law provides that all members except the member from the House of Representatives, the member from the Senate, the executive director of the governor's office

on women's policy, and the member from Ochsner Health System shall be appointed by the governor.

Proposed law states that the commission shall adopt rules and regulations to provide for governance of the commission.

Proposed law establishes that the term of each member is four years.

Proposed law provides that the members of the commission serve without compensation except that legislative members receive per diem and travel reimbursements customary for attending a meeting, and nonlegislative members may receive reimbursement for expenses in accordance with the guidelines of the entity they represent.

Proposed law states that the chairman is elected by the members for a term to be determined by the members.

Proposed law provides that the domicile of the commission shall be Baton Rouge.

Proposed law states that the commission shall meet quarterly unless the commission, by a majority vote of the members, decides on a different schedule for meetings.

Proposed law provides that half of the members shall constitute a quorum.

Proposed law provides that the La. Dept. of Health shall provide administrative staff to and serve as staff for the commission.

Proposed law states that the purpose of the commission is to collaborate with and support stakeholders to provide education and awareness of uterine fibroids, polycystic ovary syndrome, and endometriosis and recommend policies to battle such conditions.

Proposed law directs the commission to submit an annual written report to the Senate and House committees on health and welfare at least 60 days prior to each regular session.

(Adds R.S. 36:259(B)(22) and R.S. 40:1104)

#### Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

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

1. Add a member to the commission from the Ochsner Health System.
2. Provide for the selection of the member from Ochsner Health System.
3. Make technical changes.

#### The House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill:

1. Add a member to the commission from Woman's Health Hospital of Baton Rouge.
2. Provide for the selection of the member from Woman's Hospital.