

2022 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 116

BY SENATORS BARROW, BOUDREAUX, MCMATH, MIZELL AND POPE AND REPRESENTATIVES LANDRY, MOORE AND SCHLEGEL

HEALTH DEPARTMENT. Creates the office on women's health within the Louisiana Department of Health. (gov sig)

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 36:251(C)(1) and to enact R.S. 36:258(E) and R.S. 46:2527,

3 relative to the office on women's health; to establish and provide for the office on

4 women's health within the Louisiana Department of Health; to provide for an

5 assistant secretary and staff of the office on women's health; to provide for the

6 purposes, duties, and functions of the office on women's health; to provide for an

7 effective date; and to provide for related matters.

8 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

9 Section 1. R.S. 36:251(C)(1) is hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 36:258(E)

10 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

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

12 and functions

13 * * *

14 C.(1) The Louisiana Department of Health shall be composed of the

15 executive office of the secretary, the office of management and finance, the office

16 of public health, the office of behavioral health, the office for citizens with

17 developmental disabilities, the office of aging and adult services, the office on

1 **women's health**, and such other offices as shall be created by law.

2 * * *

3 §258. Offices; purposes and functions

4 * * *

5 **E. The office on women's health shall be responsible for leading and**
6 **coordinating efforts across the state that are intended to improve women's**
7 **health outcomes through policy, education, evidence-based practices, programs,**
8 **and services. The office on women's health shall serve as a clearinghouse,**
9 **coordinating agency, and resource center for women's health data and**
10 **strategies and initiatives that address women's health-related concerns.**

11 * * *

12 Section 2. R.S. 46:2527 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

13 **§2527. Office on women's health; assistant secretary; duties and functions**

14 **A. The office on women's health is hereby created in the Louisiana**
15 **Department of Health. The office shall perform the duties and functions**
16 **assigned to it in Subsection C of this Section or as otherwise provided by law**
17 **with a focus on all of the following:**

- 18 **(1) Health needs throughout a woman's life.**
- 19 **(2) Chronic conditions that significantly affect women, such as heart**
20 **disease, cancer, and osteoporosis.**
- 21 **(3) Access to health care for women.**
- 22 **(4) The impact of poverty on women's health.**
- 23 **(5) The leading causes of morbidity and mortality for women.**
- 24 **(6) Health disparities of women.**

25 **B. The office on women's health shall be under the immediate**
26 **supervision of an assistant secretary appointed by the governor in accordance**
27 **with the provisions of R.S. 36:257. The assistant secretary shall employ**
28 **necessary staff to carry out the duties and functions of the office as provided in**
29 **this Section or as otherwise provided by law.**

1 **C. In carrying out its purposes as provided for in R.S. 36:258, the office**
 2 **on women's health may do any of the following:**

3 **(1) Collect, classify, and analyze relevant information and data resulting**
 4 **from research conducted or compiled by the Louisiana Department of Health**
 5 **or other collaborative entities.**

6 **(2) Prepare educational or informative materials regarding women's**
 7 **health for publication and dissemination to the public.**

8 **D. The office on women's health shall coordinate the activities and**
 9 **programs of the office on women's health with other entities that focus on**
 10 **women's health or women's issues.**

11 **E. The office on women's health shall provide an annual report to the**
 12 **governor, legislature, and secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health**
 13 **recommending priorities and areas of improvement for women's health in**
 14 **Louisiana. The report shall be issued no later than April first of each year.**

15 Section 3. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not
 16 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature
 17 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If
 18 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become
 19 effective on the day following such approval.

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

DIGEST

SB 116 Engrossed

2022 Regular Session

Barrow

Proposed law creates the office on women's health within the La. Department of Health to lead, consolidate, and coordinate efforts across the state to improve women's health outcomes through policy, education, evidence-based practices, programs, and services.

Proposed law provides for the assistant secretary, staff, and duties and functions of the office.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 36:251(C)(1); adds R.S. 36:258(E) and R.S. 46:2527)