

2015 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 260

BY REPRESENTATIVE ALFRED WILLIAMS

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

HEALTH/SICKLE CELL ANEM: Establishes the Sickle Cell Patient Navigator Program

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 40:1299.4.3 and 2018.3(D)(5), relative to health services for persons with  
3 sickle cell disease; to establish a sickle cell patient navigator program and provide  
4 for functions of the program; to provide for administration of the program by the  
5 Department of Health and Hospitals under the direction of the Louisiana Sickle Cell  
6 Commission; to provide for program implementation contingent upon appropriation  
7 of funds; and to provide for related matters.

8 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

9 Section 1. R.S. 40:1299.4.3 and 2018.3(D)(5) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

10 §1299.4.3. Sickle cell patient navigator program

11 A. The legislature hereby finds and declares the following:

12 (1) A large percentage of persons suffering from sickle cell disease in this  
13 state are not in specialty care, even though the health consequences of going without  
14 such care may be fatal.

15 (2) Insufficient access to specialty care is a major barrier to overall health  
16 care for persons suffering from sickle cell disease.

17 (3) The purpose of this Section is to provide for a program to increase  
18 statewide access to the types of specialty care that are critical to the health and well-  
19 being of sickle cell patients.

1           B. The Sickle Cell Patient Navigator Program, referred to hereafter in this  
2           Section as "the program", is hereby established. The program shall operate in  
3           accordance with the provisions of this Section.

4           C. The functions of the program shall include, without limitation, all of the  
5           following:

6           (1) Training of patient navigators to serve as outreach coordinators,  
7           coordinators of family educational sessions, and patient case managers.

8           (2) Establishing and strengthening a continuum of care for each sickle cell  
9           patient served by the program and for the families of those patients.

10          (3) Identifying and contacting sickle cell patients, conducting home visits  
11          with patients and their family members, and coordinating patient care.

12          (4) Facilitating collaboration among healthcare providers that serve sickle  
13          cell patients.

14          (5) Delivering public health education on sickle cell disease and treatment.

15          D. The Department of Health and Hospitals shall administer the program  
16          under the direction of the Louisiana Sickle Cell Commission placed within the  
17          department by the provisions of R.S. 36:259(NN).

18          E. Implementation of the provisions of this Section shall be subject to  
19          appropriation of funds by the legislature for operation of the program.

20                                   \*       \*       \*

21          §2018.3. Louisiana Sickle Cell Commission

22                                   \*       \*       \*

23          D. The functions of the commission shall be to:

24                                   \*       \*       \*

25          (5) Direct the Sickle Cell Patient Navigator Program established by the  
26          provisions of R.S. 40:1299.4.3.

27          Section 2. The Louisiana State Law Institute is hereby authorized to redesignate the  
28          number of any Section of statute enacted by this Act in a manner that comports with the

- 1 technical recodification provisions of House Concurrent Resolution No. \_\_\_\_ of this 2015  
2 Regular Session of the Legislature.
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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 260 Original

2015 Regular Session

Alfred Williams

**Abstract:** Establishes the Sickle Cell Patient Navigator Program to be administered by the Dept. of Health and Hospitals under the direction of the La. Sickle Cell Commission.

Proposed law establishes the Sickle Cell Patient Navigator Program, referred to hereafter as "the program". Provides that the functions of the program shall include, without limitation, all of the following:

- (1) Training of patient navigators to serve as outreach coordinators, coordinators of family educational sessions, and patient case managers.
- (2) Establishing and strengthening a continuum of care for each sickle cell patient served by the program and for the families of those patients.
- (3) Identifying and contacting sickle cell patients, conducting home visits with patients and their family members, and coordinating patient care.
- (4) Facilitating collaboration among healthcare providers that serve sickle cell patients.
- (5) Delivering public health education on sickle cell disease and treatment.

Proposed law provides that the Dept. of Health and Hospitals shall administer the program under the direction of the La. Sickle Cell Commission. Provides that implementation of proposed law shall be subject to appropriation of funds by the legislature for operation of the program.

Present law provides for the functions of the La. Sickle Cell Commission. Proposed law retains present law and adds thereto direction of the Sickle Cell Patient Navigator Program established by proposed law as a function of the commission.

(Adds R.S. 40:1299.4.3 and 2018.3(D)(5))