

2017 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 116

BY SENATOR MILLS

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

LOCAL OFFICIALS. Provides for the Work Out Now: WON Louisiana Legislative Commission. (gov sig)

1 AN ACT

2 To enact Part III of Chapter 2 of Title 24 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, to be

3 comprised of R.S. 24:111 through 114, relative to exercise and healthier

4 communities; to create the Work Out Now: WON Louisiana Legislative

5 Commission; to provide for commission membership, powers, duties, and functions;

6 to provide for staff support and finances for the commission; to provide for

7 cooperation with and support for the commission; to provide for an effective date;

8 and to provide for related matters.

9 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

10 Section 1. Part III of Chapter 2 of Title 24 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950,

11 comprised of R.S. 24:111 through 114, is hereby enacted to read as follows:

12 **PART III. WORK OUT NOW: WON LOUISIANA**

13 **LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION**

14 **§111. Purpose and Findings**

15 **A. Louisiana has the highest adult obesity rate in the nation and the**

16 **fourth highest obesity rate for children ages ten through seventeen.**

17 **Obesity-related health issues plague our citizens, with Louisiana ranking fifth**

1 in the nation for adults with diabetes and fourth in the nation for adults with  
2 hypertension. The Louisiana Medicaid program alone spent more than  
3 ninety-eight million dollars in 2014 in total obesity-related payments for  
4 Medicaid covered children and adults. In 2012, the Robert Wood Johnson  
5 Foundation estimated that a cumulative five percent body mass index reduction  
6 in children and adults in Louisiana could save the state nine billion dollars by  
7 2030.

8 B. The issue of obesity in Louisiana has been studied tirelessly by  
9 countless national and state entities and there are no shortage of plans,  
10 programs strategies, and initiatives by organizations at every level, and yet  
11 obesity rates in Louisiana continue to increase every year. Our children and  
12 adults develop obesity-related chronic diseases that impact every aspect of their  
13 lives, including decreased school performance, job absences, lack of engagement  
14 in family and community, all of which decrease quality of life and come with a  
15 significant financial impact to the state.

16 C. The legislature finds and declares that the greatest resource in  
17 tackling any problem that impacts a community is the community itself. The  
18 obesity crisis cannot be mandated away at the federal or state level. It must be  
19 a priority at the local level, and to that end our mayors are key to the success of  
20 any effort to first slow and then reverse our obesity rates, thereby saving money  
21 and increasing the quality of life for all of our citizens. Our mayors must be  
22 equipped with the information needed to help their constituents lead healthier  
23 lives, which will result in a more prosperous community and save the taxpayers  
24 millions of dollars related to treating preventable chronic diseases.

25 §112. Work Out Now: WON Louisiana Legislative Commission; established;  
26 membership; duties

27 A. The Work Out Now: WON Louisiana Legislative Commission is  
28 hereby established to work directly with local elected officials to bring the battle  
29 against obesity to the local level.

1                    **B. The chairman of the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare shall**  
2                    **serve as the chairman of the commission, which shall be comprised of the**  
3                    **following members:**

4                    **(1) Two members who serve on the Senate Committee on Health and**  
5                    **Welfare, to be selected by the chairman.**

6                    **(2) Two members who serve on the Senate Committee on Local and**  
7                    **Municipal Affairs, to be selected by the chairman.**

8                    **(3) Two members who serve on the Senate Committee on Education, to**  
9                    **be selected by the chairman.**

10                  **(4) Two members who serve on the House Committee on Health and**  
11                  **Welfare, to be selected by the chairman.**

12                  **(5) Two members who serve on the House Committee on Municipal,**  
13                  **Parochial and Cultural Affairs, to be selected by the chairman.**

14                  **(6) Two members who serve on the House Committee on Education, to**  
15                  **be selected by the chairman.**

16                  **C. The duties of the commission shall be to engage an effort at the local**  
17                  **level to:**

18                  **(1) Address key gaps in current obesity prevention by understanding**  
19                  **what works in multi-system approaches to obesity, and how these approaches**  
20                  **can be implemented through community-led change strategies.**

21                  **(2) Align obesity prevention activities at the local level based on a local**  
22                  **agenda.**

23                  **(3) Engage community partners to disseminate and implement**  
24                  **evidence-based obesity prevention strategies.**

25                  **(4) Facilitate communication that unites Louisiana local elected officials**  
26                  **with their local schools, businesses, organizations, and community members to**  
27                  **demonstrate their collective commitment to fighting obesity.**

28                  **(5) Bring awareness to resources that are already available to**  
29                  **communities but underutilized, such as joint use agreements provided for in**

1           **R.S. 9:2800.22.**

2                   **(6) Facilitate information sharing and access to enable local elected**  
3                   **officials to engage existing programs that promote physical activity.**

4                   **(7) Foster a healthy competition with similar-size communities**  
5                   **throughout Louisiana.**

6                   **(8) Partner with private entities who support, promote, or administer**  
7                   **obesity prevention programs that focus on physical activity and seek funds or**  
8                   **donated prizes from those entities to reward community health effort winners.**

9                   **(9) Dedicate the second Monday of the legislative session during any**  
10                   **regular session of the Louisiana Legislature as "WON Louisiana Day" at the**  
11                   **state capitol.**

12                   **(10) Recognize local elected officials and their cities who are the most**  
13                   **involved in getting their communities to be more physically active at an award**  
14                   **ceremony at the Louisiana State Capitol.**

15                   **D. The commission may hold public hearings as part of carrying out its**  
16                   **duties. The chairman may call a hearing at a time and location deemed**  
17                   **appropriate to best engage with the local elected officials. Notice shall be issued**  
18                   **to all legislators representing an area of the state in which the commission shall**  
19                   **meet if the chairman calls a hearing in a location outside of the Louisiana State**  
20                   **Capitol.**

21           **§113. Staff support; agency cooperation and assistance**

22                   **A. The staff of the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare shall**  
23                   **provide support and assist the commission as requested by the chairman. The**  
24                   **chairman may submit a written request to the president of the Senate, the**  
25                   **speaker of the House of Representatives, the legislative fiscal officer, the**  
26                   **legislative auditor, or the commissioner of administration, for specific support**  
27                   **and assistance to be provided by the staffs of their respective agencies, if**  
28                   **needed.**

29                   **B. Each agency and political subdivision shall furnish aid, services, and**

