

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 497 (HB 818)

2018 Regular Session

Hilferty

New law creates the Healthy Moms, Healthy Babies Advisory Council, referred to hereafter as the "council", within the La. Department of Health (LDH).

New law provides that the council shall address racial and ethnic disparities in maternal health outcomes and incorporate a community-engaged, equity-focused lens into current programs and campaigns which seek to prevent maternal mortality and severe maternal morbidity, and shall promote safe and equitable care for every mother and every birth in this state.

New law provides that the council shall be composed of the following 17 members:

- (1) The secretary of LDH or his designee.
- (2) The assistant secretary of the office of public health or his designee.
- (3) The executive director of the office on women's policy or his designee.
- (4) One member of the House of Representatives appointed by the speaker of the House.
- (5) One member of the Senate appointed by the Senate president.
- (6) Two representatives of community-based organizations that work to prevent maternal mortality appointed by the governor.
- (7) One representative of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists appointed by the governor.
- (8) One representative of the March of Dimes, La. Chapter.
- (9) One representative of an organization providing doula services or community-based support services for women giving birth in La. appointed by the governor.
- (10) One representative of the Commission on Perinatal Care and Prevention of Infant Mortality appointed by the secretary of LDH.
- (11) One representative of the La. State Coroners Association appointed by the Senate president.
- (12) One representative of a community-based organization providing substance abuse counseling appointed by the Senate president.
- (13) One representative of the La. Hospital Association appointed by the speaker of the House.
- (14) One representative of a community-based organization advocating against domestic violence appointed by the speaker of the House.
- (15) Two at-large representatives appointed by the governor.

New law requires the secretary of LDH to cause the initial convening of the council to occur on or before October 1, 2018.

New law stipulates that members of the council shall serve without compensation.

New law requires the council to hold quarterly public meetings unless otherwise provided by vote of the council or by order of the chairperson.

New law requires that LDH provide staff support to the council.

New law requires the council to perform all of the following tasks:

- (1) Evaluate functions and activities of existing groups focused on maternal mortality in order to collaborate with and engage stakeholders.
- (2) Support and contextualize reporting of maternal outcomes data disaggregated by race and ethnicity where possible.
- (3) Incorporate an ongoing community advisory process into existing state committees and collaboratives that generate data, recommendations, and proposals for health system changes relevant to maternal mortality and morbidity, prioritizing representation from organizations led by members of affected, historically marginalized communities.
- (4) Establish guidelines for specific data components relevant to birth equity to be included in state and agency reports on maternal mortality and morbidity, including a plan for timely dissemination of reports on maternal mortality, morbidity, and related disparities to legislators, healthcare organizations, and other key stakeholders.
- (5) Make recommendations on further policy options to ensure that the state establishes ongoing public health monitoring and activated response to eliminate cases of and disparities in maternal mortality and morbidity.
- (6) Issue a report of its findings and recommendations on or before February 1, 2020, to the Commission on Perinatal Care and Prevention of Infant Mortality, the governor, the speaker of the House of Representatives, and the president of the Senate.
- (7) Issue research findings, reports, and recommendations for legislation at the discretion of the council.

New law provides that notwithstanding any provision of existing law to the contrary, the council may request that LDH produce or provide data to inform the work of the council. Provides that all such data shall be confidential and shall not be available for subpoena, and that such information shall not be disclosed, discoverable, or compelled to be produced in any civil, criminal, administrative, or other proceeding, or be deemed admissible as evidence in any tribunal or court. Exempts such information from existing law relative to public records, R.S. 44:1 et seq.

New law stipulates that nothing therein shall prohibit the publishing of statistical compilations relating to maternal mortality or morbidity which do not identify individual cases or individual physicians, hospitals, clinics, or other healthcare providers.

New law terminates on March 31, 2021.

Effective upon signature of governor (May 23, 2018).

(Amends R.S. 44:4.1(B)(26); Adds R.S. 36:259(I)(1) and R.S. 40:2018.5)