
DIGEST

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HB 226 Original

2022 Regular Session

Turner

Abstract: Creates the La. Healthcare Workforce Education and Training Council and provides for duties of the council, the La. Department of Health, and higher education governing boards with respect to healthcare workforce development.

Proposed law provides that it shall be known and may be cited as the Louisiana Healthcare Workforce Training Law. Provides legislative findings concerning healthcare workforce matters and for the purpose and intent of proposed law.

Proposed law creates a state medical contract program with accredited medical schools; teaching health centers; programs that train primary care physician assistants, primary care nurse practitioners, registered nurses, practical nurses, and certified nurse aides; hospitals; and other health systems to increase the number of students and residents receiving quality education and training in nursing and in the primary care specialties of family medicine, internal medicine, obstetrics and gynecology, and pediatrics, and to maximize the delivery of primary care and family physician services to communities and geographic areas of La. where recognized unmet needs for health care exist. Proposed law provides that the La. Department of Health, referred to hereafter as the "department", shall administer the contract program.

Proposed law creates the 12-member La. Healthcare Workforce Education and Training Council, referred to hereafter as the "council", and provides that the council shall be responsible for assisting in efforts to coordinate healthcare workforce education and training in this state. Provides that the council shall be composed of the following members:

- (1) Three members appointed by the governor.
- (2) The secretary of the department or his designee.
- (3) Two members appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives.
- (4) Two members appointed by the president of the Senate.
- (5) One member appointed by the chairman of the Board of Supervisors of Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College.
- (6) One member appointed by the chairman of the Board of Supervisors of Southern University and Agricultural and Mechanical College.

- (7) One member appointed by the chairman of the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System or his designee.
- (8) One member appointed by the chairman of the Board of Supervisors of Community and Technical Colleges or his designee.

Proposed law provides that the council shall have the following duties:

- (1) Develop graduate medical education and workforce training and development priorities for the state.
- (2) Make recommendations to the department regarding the use of healthcare education and training funds appropriated by the legislature.
- (3) Develop standards and guidelines for residency and health professions education and training programs funded through legislative appropriations.
- (4) Review outcomes data from health professions education and training programs and, on an ongoing basis, assess and prioritize the graduate medical education and health professions education and training needs of La. communities.
- (5) Explore options for developing a statewide graduate medical education and health professions education and training funding strategy.
- (6) Advocate for additional funding and additional sources of funds to stimulate expansion of graduate medical education and health professions education and training in La.
- (7) Provide technical assistance and support for establishing new graduate medical education and health professions education and training programs.
- (8) Review and recommend health professions career pathways and ladders.

Proposed law requires that the council, in carrying out its duties, shall give primary consideration to increasing workforce diversity and furthering improved access, quality, and equity of health care for underserved communities, Medicaid-eligible individuals and families, and other medically needy populations.

Proposed law requires that when funding primary care and family medicine programs, primary care and family medicine residencies, and programs for the training of primary care physician assistants, primary care nurse practitioners, or registered nurses, the department and the higher education governing boards of La. shall give priority to programs that have demonstrated success in the following areas:

- (1) Graduating individuals who practice in medically underserved areas.

- (2) Enrolling members of underrepresented groups in medical education.
- (3) Locating training sites in medically underserved areas.
- (4) Operating a main training site at which the majority of the patients are Medicaid enrollees or Medicaid-eligible.

Proposed law provides that the department shall have all of the following duties with respect to the council:

- (1) Develop application and contract criteria based on healthcare workforce needs and the priorities of the council.
- (2) Determine whether primary care and family medicine program proposals, primary care physician assistant training program proposals, primary care nurse practitioner training program proposals, and registered nurse training program proposals submitted for participation in the state medical contract program established by proposed law meet the standards established by the council.
- (3) Select and contract on behalf of the state with accredited medical schools, teaching health centers, programs that train primary care physician assistants, programs that train primary care nurse practitioners, hospitals, and other health systems for the purpose of training undergraduate medical students, residents, and other healthcare professionals in the specialties of internal medicine, obstetrics and gynecology, pediatrics, and family medicine.
- (4) Select and contract on behalf of the state with programs that train registered nurses.
- (5) Terminate, upon 30 days' written notice, the contract of any institution whose program does not meet the standards established by the council or that otherwise does not maintain proper compliance with proposed law.

(Adds R.S. 36:259(B)(9) and R.S. 40:1209.1-1209.8)