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## DIGEST

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HB 226 Engrossed

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 healthcare workforce contract program with accredited institutions of higher education; 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 receiving quality education and training in nursing and in primary care specialties to maximize the delivery of primary care 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.
- (9) Study the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and make recommendations to help the state in meeting its healthcare workforce needs including through induction of new workers into the healthcare workforce and retention of its existing healthcare workforce.
- (10) Study on an ongoing basis and make recommendations concerning building of the strongest possible healthcare workforce; study particularly the matter of which entities have responsibility for oversight of educational programs that produce healthcare professionals, and make recommendations regarding the extent to which healthcare professional licensing boards should have influence on the structure and operation of such programs.
- (11) Study and make recommendations concerning elimination of inefficiencies in healthcare professional licensure and credentialing and elimination of impediments to increasing the number of healthcare workers produced.

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 programs 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 health professions education and training.
- (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 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 healthcare workforce contract program established by proposed law meet the standards established by the council.
- (3) Select and contract on behalf of the state with accredited institutions of higher education, 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 healthcare professionals.
- (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)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Health and Welfare to the original bill:

1. Delete from proposed law all references to physician training, graduate medical education, and residencies.
2. Change the designation of the contract program created and provided for in proposed law from a medical contract program to a healthcare workforce contract program.
3. Add the following as duties of the La. Healthcare Workforce Education and Training Council established by proposed law:
  - a. Study the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and make recommendations to help the state in meeting its healthcare workforce needs including through induction of new workers into the healthcare workforce and retention of its existing healthcare workforce.
  - b. Study on an ongoing basis and make recommendations concerning building of the strongest possible healthcare workforce
  - c. Study the matter of which entities have responsibility for oversight of educational programs that produce healthcare professionals and make recommendations regarding the extent to which healthcare professional licensing boards should have influence on the structure and operation of such programs.
  - d. Study and make recommendations concerning elimination of inefficiencies in healthcare professional licensure and credentialing and elimination of impediments to increasing the number of healthcare workers produced.
4. Revise legislative findings.
5. Make technical changes.