

Regular Session, 2003

HOUSE BILL NO. 1321

BY REPRESENTATIVE K. CARTER

ENVIRONMENT/HEALTH: Creates an environmental health surveillance system

1 AN ACT

2 To enact Part LVI of Chapter 5 of Title 40 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes
3 of 1950, comprised of R.S. 1300.171 and 1300.172, relative to
4 environmental health surveillance, to provide for purpose of
5 environmental health surveillance; to provide for objective; to provide
6 for creation of a working group; and to provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. Part LVI of Chapter 5 of Title 40 of the Louisiana Revised
9 Statutes of 1950, comprised of R.S. 1300.171 and 1300.172, is hereby enacted
10 to read as follows:

11 PART LVI. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM

12 §1300.171. Purpose

13 A. It is the intent of the Legislature to establish an
14 Environmental Health Surveillance System (EHSS) in accordance with
15 this Part. The purpose of the EHSS shall be to establish ongoing
16 surveillance of the environmental exposures and diseases affecting the
17 citizens of this state, with a focus on prevalence and determinants of

1 chronic diseases. The Board of Regents is hereby requested to
2 cooperate with the division and the office in establishing the EHSS.

3 B. The objectives of the EHSS are as follows:

4 (1) To track and evaluate a variety of chronic diseases in relation
5 to environmental exposures.

6 (2) To allow both government and university investigators and
7 public health officials to assess the impact of environmental
8 contaminants on the human body.

9 (3) To provide information to the Department of Health and
10 Hospitals, the Department of Environmental Quality or any other
11 relevant public or private entity for the development of appropriate
12 preventive strategies.

13 §1300.172. Development of surveillance system

14 A. On or before July 1, 2003, the Department of Health and
15 Hospitals, in consultation with the Department of Environmental
16 Quality, shall create a working group of technical experts, including
17 experts who have knowledge of the sensitivity to exposure of children,
18 women of child-bearing age, seniors, and disparately affected
19 populations to environmental hazards, to do all of the following:

20 (1) Develop possible approaches to establishing the EHSS,
21 including an estimated cost for each approach.

22 (2) Prepare and submit a report to the Department of Health and
23 Hospitals and appropriate legislative committees, by February 1, 2004,
24 on the possible approaches to establishing the EHSS, including an
25 estimated cost of each approach, and the recommended approach to
26 establishing an EHSS for Louisiana.

1 (3) Develop the health and environmental measurements needed
2 to do both of the following:

3 (a) Obtain an ongoing picture of the health of the citizens of
4 Louisiana.

5 (b) Establish a data base that may facilitate the examination of
6 the relationship between chronic diseases, including birth defects, and
7 the environment.

8 (b) The Board of Regents is hereby requested to cooperate with
9 the working group described in this Section.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument.

K. Carter

HB No. 1321

Abstract: Expresses intent to develop an environmental health surveillance system and authorizes DHH to create a working group to develop a plan for such a system.

Proposed law declares legislative intent to establish an Environmental Health Surveillance System, in accordance with the recommendations of the working group created pursuant proposed law.

Proposed law provides that the purpose of the EHSS shall be to establish an ongoing surveillance of environmental exposures and the diseases afflicting people of this state. Proposed law requires DHH, in consultation with DEQ and in cooperation with the Board of Regents, to create a working group of technical experts with specified duties, including the development of possible approaches to establishing the EHSS.

(Adds R.S. 1300.171 and 1300.172)