

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, to be comprised of R.S. 40:1300.171 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. 40:1300.171 and 1300.172, is hereby  
10 enacted 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 Environmental  
14 Health Surveillance System (EHSS) in accordance with this Part. The  
15 purpose of the EHSS shall be to establish ongoing surveillance of the  
16 environmental exposures and diseases affecting the citizens of this  
17 state, with a focus on prevalence and determinants of chronic diseases.

1           The Board of Regents is hereby requested to cooperate with the  
2           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 database 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 to 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. 40:1300.171 and 1300.172)

#### Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

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

1. Clarifies citation as R.S. 40:1300.171 and 1300.172.