

Regular Session, 2003

HOUSE BILL NO. 1321

BY REPRESENTATIVE K. CARTER

AN ACT

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

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

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

PART LVI. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM

§1300.171. Purpose

A. It is the intent of the legislature to establish an Environmental Health Surveillance System (EHSS) in accordance with this Part. The purpose of the EHSS shall be to establish ongoing surveillance of the environmental factors, including physical, chemical, biological, and social factors and diseases affecting the citizens of this state, with a focus on disease trends and research. The Board of Regents is hereby requested to cooperate with the division and the office in establishing the EHSS.

B. The objectives of the EHSS are as follows:

(1) To track and evaluate environmental factors, including physical, chemical, biological, and social factors, that may play a role in the development of certain chronic diseases.

(2) To develop data in a standardized format for optimal use with other public health databases and to allow government, university, and public health officials to develop hypotheses for research on the potential impact of environmental factors on chronic diseases.

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

§1300.172. Development of surveillance system

A. On or before July 1, 2003, the Department of Health and Hospitals, in consultation with the Department of Environmental Quality, shall create a working group of technical experts, including experts in epidemiology, public health, and environmental health, to do all of the following:

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

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

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

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

(b) Establish a database that may facilitate the examination of the relationship between chronic diseases, including birth defects, and the physical, chemical, biological, and socioeconomic environment.

B. The Board of Regents is hereby requested to cooperate with the working group described in this Section.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____