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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Senate Legislative Services. The keyword, summary, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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DIGEST

SB 219 Reengrossed 2026 Regular Session McMath

Present law provides for the following composition of the La. Dept. of Health: the executive office of the secretary, the office of the surgeon general, the office of management and finance, the office of public health, the office of behavioral health, the office for citizens with developmental disabilities, the office of aging and adult services, and the office on women's health and community health.

Present law provides that the office of public health is responsible for functions which relate to the general health of the people of the state, including physical fitness and supplemental food programs for women, infants, and children.

Proposed law creates the office of health and nutrition within the La. Dept. of Health.

Proposed law provides that the office is responsible for leading and coordinating efforts intended to promote health and nutrition, healthcare access, preventative healthcare services, chronic disease prevention and management programs, physical fitness, and health outcomes, including supplemental nutrition assistance services and commodity programs for women, infants, and children.

Proposed law further requires the office to coordinate with the office of aging and adult services and the office of public health to provide public education on risk reduction strategies for Alzheimer's and related dementias, included the diseases' links to other chronic diseases.

Proposed law provides for an executive director for the office that reports directly to the secretary.

Proposed law provides that the executive office of the secretary and the office of health and nutrition shall be under the direct supervision, direction, and control of the secretary of the La. Dept. of Health.

Proposed law authorizes the La. Dept. of Health to transfer funding and positions within the department to establish and implement the office of health and nutrition.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 36:251(C)(1), 254(B)(1)(a)(i), 257(A), and 258(A) and (B) and R.S. 46:450.3(A); adds R.S. 36:253.1, 258(N), and 258.1)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

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

1. Adds chronic disease prevention and management programs, healthcare access, and preventative healthcare services to the purview of the office of health and nutrition.
2. Changes the office's responsibility regarding the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.
3. Adds coordination with the office of adult and aging services and the office of public health to provide public education on risk reduction strategies for Alzheimer's and related dementias to the office's purview.

Senate Floor Amendments to engrossed bill

1. Makes technical changes.