HLS 19RS-698 ORIGINAL

2019 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 525

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## BY REPRESENTATIVE HENRY AND SENATOR ALARIO

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

AN ACT

HEALTH/CANCER: Provides relative to the Louisiana Cancer Research Center

| 2  | To amend and reenact R.S. 17:1921, 1922, 1923(A), 1924(introductory paragraph) and (4), |
|----|---|
| 3  | 1925, and 1926, relative to state-supported cancer research institutions; to provide    |
| 4  | relative to the Louisiana Cancer Research Center; to provide for purposes of the        |
| 5  | Louisiana Cancer Research Center; to provide relative to the executive director of      |
| 6  | the cancer research center; to provide for governance of the center; to provide for     |
| 7  | securing of National Cancer Institute designation; to revise legislative findings       |
| 8  | relative to cancer research; and to provide for related matters.                        |
| 9  | Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:  |
| 10 | Section 1. R.S. 17:1921, 1922, 1923(A), 1924(introductory paragraph) and (4), 1925,     |
| 11 | and 1926 are hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:                           |
| 12 | §1921. Findings and purpose   |
| 13 | A. The legislature hereby finds and declares the following:                             |
| 14 | (1) Louisiana has one of the highest incidences of mortality from cancer                |
| 15 | overall, with mortality from cancer particularly high in rural areas which have         |
| 16 | limited access to cancer detection and treatment, among lower income Louisianans        |
| 17 | no matter where they live, and among minorities.  |
| 18 | (2) The unfortunate condition of Louisiana's high cancer incidence and                  |
| 19 | mortality rates provides the rationale for the establishment of an NCI-designated       |

CODING: Words in struck through type are deletions from existing law; words <u>underscored</u> are additions.

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cancer center in Louisiana that can study and address health disparities relating to cancer.

B. The purpose of this Chapter is to create the Louisiana Cancer Research Center of L.S.U. Health Sciences Center in New Orleans/Tulane Health Sciences Center with the primary function of conducting research and promoting education in the diagnosis, detection, and treatment of cancer in its pursuit of obtaining National Cancer Institute (NCI) designation for the two health sciences centers cancer research center in New Orleans, Louisiana. Data from multiple sources indicate that Louisiana's citizens suffer disproportionately from a high rate of cancer-induced deaths. The latest statistics from the American Cancer Society show that Louisiana has the highest cancer mortality rate in the nation. Approximately one hundred eighty Louisiana citizens die each week from cancer, and the cost to the state's economy is close to four hundred million dollars per year in lost productivity from excessive early death from cancer. By coordinating and focusing the its cancer research efforts at the Louisiana Cancer Research Center of L.S.U. Health Sciences Center in New Orleans/Tulane Health Sciences Center and by providing modern new research resources and infrastructure, the cancer centers in New Orleans, Louisiana will be able to develop their current facilities and recruit the new faculty members necessary to achieve secure the designation as of an NCI designated NCI-designated cancer center, the recognized gold preeminent standard for excellence in cancer research, treatment, and prevention. There are sixty such centers in the United States, but none in Louisiana, Mississippi, or Arkansas. The closest NCI designated cancer centers are three hundred fifty miles to the west of New Orleans at the M.D. Anderson Hospital in Houston, Texas, and three hundred fifty miles to the northeast of New Orleans at the University of Alabama Medical Center in Birmingham, Alabama.

§1922. Louisiana Cancer Research Center of L.S.U. Health Sciences Center in New Orleans/Tulane Health Sciences Center; creation; domicile; fiscal year

| 1  | The Louisiana Cancer Research Center of L.S.U. Health Sciences Center in              |
|----|---|
| 2  | New Orleans/Tulane Health Sciences Center, hereafter referred to as "center", is      |
| 3  | hereby created as a body corporate under the administration of a governance           |
| 4  | governing board as provided in this Chapter and in accordance with R.S. 17:3390(B).   |
| 5  | The domicile of the center shall be Orleans Parish. The center shall operate on a     |
| 6  | fiscal year basis commencing on July first and ending on June thirtieth of each year. |
| 7  | §1923. Governing board; membership  |
| 8  | A. The governance governing board of the center shall exercise all powers,            |
| 9  | rights, and duties conferred upon the center by this Chapter or other provisions of   |
| 10 | law. The board shall consist of the senior vice president for health sciences of      |
| 11 | Tulane University Health Sciences Center, a senior Louisiana State University         |
| 12 | Health Sciences Center representative appointed by the president of the Louisiana     |
| 13 | State University System, a member appointed by the senior vice president for health   |
| 14 | sciences of Tulane University Health Sciences Center, a member appointed by the       |
| 15 | president of the Louisiana State University System from the Louisiana State           |
| 16 | University Health Sciences Center, the secretary of the Department of Economic        |
| 17 | Development or his designee, the chairman of the Louisiana Board of Regents or his    |
| 18 | designee, and such other persons as may be appointed by the unanimous consent of      |
| 19 | the board. The appointed members of the governance governing board shall serve        |
| 20 | for terms of four years each. Any appointment to fill a vacancy on the board shall    |
| 21 | be made for the unexpired term of the member whose death, resignation, or removal     |
| 22 | created such vacancy.   |
| 23 | * * *   |
| 24 | §1924. Purposes and powers of the center  |
| 25 | The governing board of the center shall have authority to:                            |
| 26 | * * *   |
| 27 | (4) Approve the appointment of such administrative officers and other                 |
| 28 | personnel as the governance governing board deems necessary and designate their       |
| 29 | titles. The compensation of all officers and employees shall be fixed by the          |

1 governance governing board and the officers so appointed shall serve at the pleasure 2 of the governance governing board. 3 4 §1925. Executive director; appointment; functions The governance governing board may appoint a chief administrative officer 5 6 who shall be the executive director of the center. The executive director of the center 7 shall serve at the pleasure of the governance governing board and shall, with the 8 approval of the governance governing board, appoint and remove all professional, 9 research, technical, clerical, and other employees of the center. The compensation 10 of the executive director shall be fixed by the governance governing board. 11 §1926. Reports 12 The governance governing board shall present a strategic plan and annual progress report to the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget, the Louisiana 13 14 Board of Regents, and the Department of Economic Development not later than 15 February first of each year. The governance governing board shall make such other 16 reports as are required by the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget.

## **DIGEST**

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, 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)]

HB 525 Original

2019 Regular Session

Henry

**Abstract:** Provides relative to the purposes and governance of the Louisiana Cancer Research Center.

<u>Present law</u> establishes and provides for the La. Cancer Research Center, referred to hereafter as the "center".

<u>Proposed law</u> provides for purposes of the center including the securing of National Cancer Institute designation.

Proposed law provides relative to the executive director and governance of the center.

(Amends R.S. 17:1921, 1922, 1923(A), 1924(intro. para.) and (4), 1925, and 1926)