

2021 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 72

BY SENATORS CARTER AND TARVER

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

HEALTH DEPARTMENT. Creates the office on women's health within the Louisiana Department of Health. (gov sig)

1 AN ACT  
2 To amend and reenact R.S. 36:251(C)(1) and to enact R.S. 36:258(E) and R.S. 46:2527,  
3 relative to the office on women's health; to establish and provide for the office on  
4 women's health within the Louisiana Department of Health; to provide for an  
5 assistant secretary and staff of the office on women's health; to provide for the  
6 purposes, duties, and functions of the office on women's health; to provide for an  
7 effective date; and to provide for related matters.

8 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

9 Section 1. R.S. 36:251(C)(1) is hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 36:258(E)  
10 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

11 §251. Louisiana Department of Health; creation; domicile; composition; purpose  
12 and functions

13 \* \* \*

14 C.(1) The Louisiana Department of Health shall be composed of the  
15 executive office of the secretary, the office of management and finance, the office  
16 of public health, the office of behavioral health, the office for citizens with  
17 developmental disabilities, the office of aging and adult services, **the office on**

1 women's health, and such other offices as shall be created by law.

2 \* \* \*

3 §258. Offices; purposes and functions

4 \* \* \*

5 E. The office on women's health shall be responsible for leading,  
6 consolidating, and coordinating efforts across the state geared toward  
7 improving women's health outcomes through policy, education, evidence-based  
8 practices, programs, and services.

9 \* \* \*

10 Section 2. R.S. 46:2527 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

11 §2527. Office on women's health; assistant secretary; duties and functions

12 A. The office on women's health is hereby created in the Louisiana  
13 Department of Health. The office shall perform the duties and functions  
14 assigned to it in Subsection C of this Section or as otherwise provided by law.

15 B. The office of women's health shall be under the immediate  
16 supervision of an assistant secretary appointed by the governor in accordance  
17 with the provisions of R.S. 36:257. The assistant secretary shall employ  
18 necessary staff to carry out the duties and functions of the office as provided in  
19 this Section or as otherwise provided by law.

20 C. In carrying out it's purposes as provided for in R.S. 36:258, the office  
21 on women's health shall do all of the following:

22 (1) Educate and advocate for women's health by establishing, either on  
23 its own or in partnership with other entities, appropriate forums, programs, or  
24 initiatives designed to educate the public regarding women's health, with an  
25 emphasis on preventive health and healthy lifestyles.

26 (2) Identify, coordinate, and establish priorities for programs, services,  
27 and resources for women's health issues and concerns.

28 (3) Serve as a clearinghouse and resource regarding women's health  
29 data, strategies, services, and programs that address women's health issues.

1                   **(4) Collect, classify, and analyze relevant research information and data**  
2                   **conducted or compiled by the Louisiana Department of Health or other**  
3                   **collaborative entities and provide persons with information regarding the**  
4                   **research results, except as prohibited by law.**

5                   **(5) Develop and recommend funding and program activities for**  
6                   **educating the public on women's health initiatives relating to the social**  
7                   **determinants of health including all of the following:**

8                   **(a) Health needs throughout a woman's life.**

9                   **(b) Diseases that significantly affect women, including heart disease,**  
10                  **cancer, and osteoporosis.**

11                  **(c) Access to health care for women.**

12                  **(d) Poverty and women's health.**

13                  **(e) The leading causes of morbidity and mortality for women.**

14                  **(f) Health disparities of women.**

15                  **(6) Make recommendations to the secretary of the Louisiana**  
16                  **Department of Health regarding programs that address women's health issues**  
17                  **for inclusion in the department's budget and strategic planning.**

18                  **(7) Seek funding from private or other governmental entities to carry**  
19                  **out the purposes, duties, and functions of the office on women's health.**

20                  **(8) Prepare materials for publication and dissemination to the public on**  
21                  **women's health.**

22                  **(9) Conduct public educational forums in Louisiana to raise public**  
23                  **awareness and to educate citizens about women's health programs, issues, and**  
24                  **services.**

25                  **(10) Coordinate the activities and programs of the office on women's**  
26                  **health with other entities that focus on women's health or women's issues.**

27                  **(11) Provide an annual report to the governor, legislature, and secretary**  
28                  **of the Louisiana Department of Health on the priorities and services needed for**  
29                  **women's health in Louisiana, and areas for improvement.**

