

2026 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 236

BY SENATOR OWEN

HEALTH CARE. Provides relative to kidney disease. (8/1/26)

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AN ACT

To enact R.S. 46:450.5.1, relative to kidney disease; to provide for legislative intent; to provide for requirements for the Louisiana Department of Health; to provide for annual reviews; to provide for reporting; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 46:450.5.1 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§450.5.1. Chronic and rare kidney diseases; coverage; annual review

A. The legislature hereby finds that:

(1) More than thirty-five million Americans currently suffer from kidney disease and millions more may not be aware that they are at risk for developing kidney disease in the future.

(2) There is a new era emerging of clinical innovation in kidney disease treatment, with the first-ever treatments approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration to slow the decline of kidney function in patients with chronic kidney disease and rare kidney diseases.

(3) Although the main causes of kidney disease are diabetes and high blood pressure, kidney disease also has genetic and hereditary causes, including

1 rare diseases that cause glomerulonephritis.

2 (4) According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, as
3 many as nine out of ten Americans with chronic kidney disease are unaware
4 they have it.

5 (5) If kidney disease is detected early through blood, urine, or other tests,
6 it may be possible to slow its progression and delay the need for dialysis or
7 transplant through lifestyle changes and pharmacological treatments.

8 (6) Dialysis and later stages of kidney disease are costly to the state and
9 its healthcare system and often results in a patient leaving the workforce.

10 B. The legislature further finds that, considering the detrimental health
11 effects of kidney disease in Louisiana and the United States, its enormous
12 impact on the lives of patients and their caregivers, and the avoidable costs to
13 the state, its workforce, and the healthcare system of undetected or
14 undertreated kidney disease, it is in the interest of the state to encourage the
15 prevention, early screening, diagnosis, treatment, disparity of impact, and
16 overall awareness and understanding of kidney disease in Louisiana.

17 C.(1) The Louisiana Department of Health shall conduct an annual
18 review of all medications and forms of treatment for chronic and rare kidney
19 diseases and services for enrollees with a diagnosis of chronic or rare kidney
20 disease that are eligible for coverage under Medicaid. The purpose of the annual
21 review is to determine if the available covered medications, treatments, and
22 services are adequate to meet the needs of enrollees with a diagnosis of chronic
23 or rare kidney disease, and whether the department should seek to add
24 additional medications, treatments, or services.

25 (2) When conducting the annual review required by this Subsection, the
26 department shall solicit and consider input from the general public, with
27 specific emphasis on attempting to receive input from persons or groups with
28 knowledge and experience in the area of chronic and rare kidney diseases.

29 D. The department shall examine and pursue strategic partnerships with

1 state-based entities who represent or provide services to individuals living with
 2 chronic kidney disease and rare kidney diseases for the purpose of increasing
 3 education, awareness, and diagnostic screening for chronic and rare kidney
 4 diseases, through new or existing initiatives including but not limited to Well
 5 Ahead Louisiana.

6 E. On or before January 15, 2027, and on or before January fifteenth
 7 each year thereafter, the department shall submit a report to the president of
 8 the Senate, the speaker of the House of Representatives, the Senate Committee
 9 on Health and Welfare, the House Committee on Health and Welfare, and the
 10 David R. Poynter Legislative Research Library as required by R.S. 24:771 and
 11 772. The report shall detail the department's findings from the annual review
 12 required by this Section, as well as any recommendations to the legislature
 13 based upon the department's findings. The department shall publish the annual
 14 report on its website in a manner accessible by the general public.

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)]

DIGEST

SB 236 Original

2026 Regular Session

Owen

Proposed law provides legislative intent relative to the importance of prevention, early screening, diagnosis, and treatment of kidney disease.

Proposed law requires the La. Dept. of Health to conduct an annual review of all medications and forms of treatment for chronic and rare kidney diseases and services for enrollees with a diagnosis of chronic or rare kidney disease that are eligible for coverage under Medicaid.

Proposed law requires the department to examine and pursue strategic partnerships with state-based entities who represent or provide services to individuals living with chronic kidney disease and rare kidney diseases for the purpose of increasing education, awareness, and diagnostic screening for chronic and rare kidney diseases.

Proposed law requires the department to submit an annual report to the Senate president, the speaker of the House, and the committees on health and welfare beginning Jan. 15, 2027, that details the department's findings from the annual review and any recommendations to the legislature.

Effective August 1, 2026.

(Adds R.S. 46:450.5.1)