DIGEST

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HB 897 Engrossed 2026 Regular Session Mandie Landry

Abstract: Provides for the protection of data for individuals utilizing services provided by the Louisiana Pregnancy and Baby Care Initiative.

Present law creates the Louisiana Pregnancy and Baby Care Initiative within the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) as a statewide program to promote childbirth and provide pregnancy, parenting, and adoption support services.

Present law makes services available to pregnant women, biological fathers of unborn children, parents or guardians of children up to 36 months old, participants who have experienced the loss of a child, and immediate family members of participating parents.

Present law requires DCFS to contract with a single nonprofit organization to serve as general contractor to manage the program and subcontract with existing nonprofit providers on a fee-for-service basis and prohibits the general contractor from providing direct client services.

Present law limits program-funded services to counseling or mentoring, referrals, educational classes, and material assistance intended to improve pregnancy or parenting outcomes.

Proposed law prohibits a pregnancy center from disclosing a client's name or protected health information outside of the organization without the client's written permission for a specific disclosure.

Proposed law requires a pregnancy center to provide a privacy notice prior to obtaining written consent for disclosure, including the purpose of the disclosure, the specific information to be disclosed, and the third parties who may receive the disclosed information.

Proposed law requires a pregnancy center to provide a simple mechanism for a client to revoke previously granted consent for disclosure of protected health information.

Proposed law requires a pregnancy center to provide a client, at no cost, a copy of the client's records within ten business days of a request.

Proposed law prohibits a general contractor that obtains protected health information from disclosing a client's name or protected health information outside of its organization.

Proposed law allows disclosure of aggregate or de-identified information that does not identify an

individual and allows disclosures necessary for DCFS to exercise oversight authority or as otherwise required by law.

Proposed law authorizes a person to file a complaint with DCFS for alleged violations and requires DCFS to investigate and determine whether a violation has occurred.

Proposed law requires DCFS to initiate enforcement action upon finding a violation, including warnings or monetary fines.

Proposed law requires that enforcement actions comply with applicable state contracting laws, rules, and procedures, including notice and an opportunity to respond.

Proposed law applies to any organization receiving state or federal funding through programs administered by DCFS for pregnancy center services, referrals, marketing, or administrative functions, including but not limited to the Louisiana Pregnancy and Baby Care Initiative and Thrive: The Baby and Parent Network.

Proposed law provides that a general contractor, subcontractor, and pregnancy center share responsibility for ensuring compliance with the provisions of proposed law.

Proposed law provides for definitions.

(Adds R.S.46:972.2)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Health and Welfare to the original bill:

1. Provide for definitions.

2. Provide that certain patient data is protected.

3. Add that a pregnancy center is required to provide a privacy notice.

4. Provide for enforcement mechanisms.

5. Add that the responsibility to provide notice and maintain patient privacy is a duty of the pregnancy center or affiliated entity.