

SENATE BILL NO. 236

BY SENATOR OWEN AND REPRESENTATIVE CHASSION

1 AN ACT

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

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

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

7 **§450.5.1. Chronic and rare kidney diseases; coverage; annual review**

8 **A. The legislature hereby finds all of the following:**

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

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

16 **(3) Although the main causes of kidney disease are diabetes and high**
17 **blood pressure, kidney disease also has genetic and hereditary causes, including**
18 **rare diseases that cause glomerulonephritis.**

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

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

25 **(6) Dialysis and later stages of kidney disease are costly to the state and**
26 **its healthcare system and often result in a patient leaving the workforce.**

1 **B. The legislature further finds that, considering the detrimental health**
2 **effects of kidney disease in this state and the United States, its enormous impact**
3 **on the lives of patients and their caregivers, and the avoidable costs to the state,**
4 **its workforce, and the healthcare system of undetected or undertreated kidney**
5 **disease, it is in the interest of the state to encourage the prevention, early**
6 **screening, diagnosis, treatment, disparity of impact, and overall awareness and**
7 **understanding of kidney disease in Louisiana.**

8 **C.(1) The Louisiana Department of Health shall conduct an annual**
9 **review of all medications and forms of treatment for chronic and rare kidney**
10 **diseases and services for enrollees with a diagnosis of chronic or rare kidney**
11 **disease that are eligible for coverage under Medicaid. The purpose of the annual**
12 **review is to determine if the available covered medications, treatments, and**
13 **services are adequate to meet the needs of enrollees with a diagnosis of chronic**
14 **or rare kidney disease, and whether the department should seek to add**
15 **additional medications, treatments, or services.**

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

20 **D. The department shall examine and pursue strategic partnerships with**
21 **state-based entities who represent or provide services to individuals living with**
22 **chronic and rare kidney diseases for the purpose of increasing education,**
23 **awareness, and diagnostic screening for chronic and rare kidney diseases,**
24 **through new or existing initiatives including but not limited to Well-Ahead**
25 **Louisiana.**

26 **E. On or before July 1, 2027, and on or before July first each year**
27 **thereafter, the department shall submit a report to the president of the Senate,**
28 **the speaker of the House of Representatives, the Senate Committee on Health**
29 **and Welfare, the House Committee on Health and Welfare, and the David R.**
30 **Poynter Legislative Research Library as required by R.S. 24:771 and 772. The**

1 report shall detail the department's findings from the annual review required
2 by this Section, as well as any recommendations to the legislature based upon
3 the department's findings. The department shall publish the annual report on
4 its website in a manner accessible by the general public.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____