
DIGEST

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HB 243 Engrossed

2019 Regular Session

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Abstract: Establishes requirements for reporting and tracking of certain data relating to suspected opioid-related overdoses.

Present law requires the state health officer, acting through the office of public health of the La. Department of Health (LDH), to prepare, promulgate, and enforce rules and regulations embodied within the state's sanitary code. Provides guidelines and directives for promulgation and implementation of the sanitary code.

Proposed law retains present law and adds a requirement that the sanitary code provide for reporting by emergency departments of chief complaints, admit reasons, and discharge diagnosis data relating to suspected opioid-related overdoses.

Present law requires that each coroner or physician who signs a death certificate certify the certificate using the La. Electronic Event Registration System.

Proposed law retains present law and adds a requirement that each coroner report drug overdose deaths where the decedent's toxicology results indicate that an opioid was present at the time of death. Requires that such reports be entered into the La. Electronic Event Registration System.

Proposed law defines "first responders" and "opioid-related drug overdose" for purposes of proposed law.

Proposed law authorizes first responders to provide reports or documents to the LDH office of public health where an encountered individual was experiencing an opioid-related drug overdose and whether naloxone was administered. Provides that such reports and documents are confidential and exempt from the requirements of present law relative to public records, R.S. 44:1 et seq.

Effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 40:34(C) and R.S. 44:4.1(B)(26); Adds R.S. 40:4(A)(14) and 978.2.1)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

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

1. Provide that the rules and regulations of the state sanitary code shall provide for reporting by emergency departments of chief complaints, admit reasons, and discharge diagnosis data relating to suspected opioid-related overdoses.
2. Delete proposed law providing that the state health officer shall have exclusive jurisdiction, control, and authority over the reporting of opioid-related overdoses.