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 DIGEST
 

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SB 119 Reengrossed

2019 Regular Session

Colomb

Proposed law defines palliative care as person-centered, family-focused care that provides a patient with relief from the symptoms, pain, and stress of a serious illness. Proposed law provides that palliative care is appropriate for a patient of any age and at any stage of a serious illness and can reduce medical costs and patient recovery time when provided by an interdisciplinary team of physicians, nurses, social workers, and other healthcare specialists in order to provide an additional source of support to a patient with a serious illness.

Proposed law defines "palliative care for children" as the care appropriate for children and their families that begins at diagnosis and continues regardless of whether the treatment is directed at the disease. This requires health providers to evaluate and alleviate a child's physical, psychological, and social distress through a multi-disciplinary approach that includes the family and makes use of available community resources which can be successfully implemented even if resources are limited. This includes active total care of the child's body, mind, and spirit and the support given to the family. Palliative care for children can be provided in tertiary care facilities, in community health centers, and in children's homes

Proposed law establishes the Palliative Care Interdisciplinary Advisory Council to study and make recommendations to the secretary and the legislature regarding the availability of patient-centered and family-focused palliative care in this state. Proposed law provides that the secretary shall call the first meeting and that the council shall meet at least twice a year.

Proposed law provides that the department shall provide staff support for the council and shall post notices and materials regarding the council on its website.

Proposed law provides that council members shall have at least two years of experience providing individual or interdisciplinary palliative care to pediatric, youth, or adult populations in inpatient, outpatient, or community settings and shall include seventeen members: four physicians, three nurses, one palliative care program administrator, one social worker, one pharmacist, one spiritual care advisor, one insurance administrator, three patient and family advocates, the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health or his designee who shall be a nonvoting member, and the Medicaid director or his designee.

Proposed law provides for analysis of information regarding palliative care to be included in recommendations to the secretary and the legislature and for the creation of an educational initiative, including the addition of such information on the department's website. Proposed law provides for a report to the legislature on February 1st of each year.

Proposed law terminates on March 31, 2022, unless reauthorized by the legislature.

Effective August 1, 2019.

(Adds R.S. 36:259(B)(36) and R.S. 40:2018.6)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Health and Welfare to the original bill

1. Provides that one of the four physician members of the council shall be board certified in pediatric palliative care.

2. Adds the Medicaid director to the council.
3. Adds authority for the council to engage and solicit input from, at a minimum, certain identified stakeholders.
4. Increases the number of meetings a member may miss before being replaced from two to three.
5. Increases frequency of council meetings from twice each year to quarterly each year.
6. Changes the definition of "palliative care".
7. Makes technical corrections.

Senate Floor Amendments to engrossed bill

1. Makes technical amendments.
2. Replaces the ex officio nonvoting member appointed as a representative of the secretary with the secretary or his designee specifies the secretary shall be a nonvoting member.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

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

1. Add "palliative care for children" to the list of definitions.
2. Make technical changes.