2024 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 137

BY REPRESENTATIVE BRASS

## CHILDREN: Provides relative to the Children's Cabinet Advisory Board

| 1  | AN ACT  |
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| 2  | To amend and reenact R.S. 46:2602(B) and 2605(A) and (B)(7), (11), (13) through (16), |
| 3  | (19), and (29) and to enact R.S. 46:2605(B)(42) and (G), relative to the Children's   |
| 4  | Cabinet and the Children's Cabinet Advisory Board; to provide for membership of       |
| 5  | the cabinet; to provide for membership of the board; to provide for duties of the     |
| 6  | board; to authorize the board to establish subcommittees; and to provide for related  |
| 7  | matters.  |
| 8  | Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:  |
| 9  | Section 1. R.S. 46:2602(B) and 2605(A) and (B)(7), (11), (13) through (16), (19),     |
| 10 | and (29) are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 46:2605(B)(42) and (G) are hereby  |
| 11 | enacted to read as follows:   |
| 12 | §2602. Children's Cabinet; creation; purpose  |
| 13 | * * *   |
| 14 | B. The cabinet shall be composed of the following members:                            |
| 15 | (1) The secretary of the Department of Children and Family Services or his            |
| 16 | designee.   |
| 17 | (2) The secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health or his designee.              |
| 18 | (3) The deputy secretary for youth services of the Department of Public               |
| 19 | Safety and Corrections or his designee.   |
| 20 | (4) The secretary of the Louisiana Workforce Commission or his designee.              |

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| 1  | (5) The state superintendent of education or his designee.                         |
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| 2  | (6) The commissioner of administration <u>or his designee</u> .                    |
| 3  | (7) The executive director of the cabinet, to be determined by the governor,       |
| 4  | or his designee who shall serve as chairperson.                                    |
| 5  | (8) A member of the House of Representatives appointed by the speaker of           |
| 6  | the House of Representatives or his designee.                                      |
| 7  | (9) A member of the Senate appointed by the president of the Senate or his         |
| 8  | designee.  |
| 9  | (10) A representative of the Children's Cabinet Advisory Board as selected         |
| 10 | by its members or his designee.  |
| 11 | (11) A member of the Louisiana Council of Juvenile and Family Court                |
| 12 | Judges appointed by the chief justice of the Louisiana Supreme Court or his        |
| 13 | designee.  |
| 14 | (12) A member of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education             |
| 15 | appointed by its president or his designee.  |
| 16 | (13) The secretary of the Department of Economic Development or his                |
| 17 | designee.  |
| 18 | * * *  |
| 19 | §2605. Children's Cabinet Advisory Board   |
| 20 | A. The Children's Cabinet Advisory Board, hereinafter referred to as the           |
| 21 | "advisory board", is hereby created. The purpose of the advisory board shall be to |
| 22 | provide information and recommendations from the perspective of advocacy groups,   |
| 23 | service providers, and parents. Primary responsibilities of the Children's Cabinet |
| 24 | Advisory Board are:  |
| 25 | (1) To ensure information sharing between governmental and                         |
| 26 | nongovernmental entities serving Louisiana's children.                             |
| 27 | (2) To make recommendations to the Children's Cabinet, through the                 |
| 28 | executive director, as requested by the Cabinet.                                   |

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(3) To make recommendations to the Children's Cabinet, through the executive director, as necessary as determined by the advisory board.

3 (4) To make recommendations to the Children's Cabinet, through the
4 executive director, as to the budget priorities for the coming year and specific budget
5 items to be supported in the Children's Budget by September thirtieth. by August
6 thirty-first.
7 (5) To make recommendations to the Children's Cabinet, through the

7 (5) To make recommendations to the Children's Cabinet, through the
 8 executive director, as to specific budget items to be supported in the Children's
 9 Budget by November thirtieth.

10 (6) To make recommendations to the Children's Cabinet, through the
 11 executive director, as to specific programs with the greatest potential for reducing
 12 child poverty and funding opportunities for the implementation of such programs.

13 (7)(6) To make an annual report to the legislature, the Senate Committee on
14 Health and Welfare, the House Committee on Health and Welfare, the Select
15 Committee on Women and Children, and any other legislative committee requesting
16 a copy of the annual report by January thirty-first. The report shall summarize the
17 well-being of Louisiana's children, the accomplishments of the past year, and
18 specific goals and priorities for the next fiscal year.

B. The advisory board shall be composed of the following members:

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21 (7) The director of the State Head Start Collaboration Project <u>or his designee</u>.

(11) The assistant secretary of child welfare of the Department of Children
and Family Services <u>or his designee</u>.

26 (13) The assistant secretary of the office for citizens with developmental
27 disabilities of the Louisiana Department of Health <u>or his designee</u>.

| 1  | (14) The assistant secretary of the office of public health of the Louisiana      |
|----|---|
| 2  | Department of Health or his designee.   |
| 3  | (15) The assistant secretary of the office of behavioral health of the            |
| 4  | Louisiana Department of Health or his designee.                                   |
| 5  | (16) The director of the bureau of health services financing of the Louisiana     |
| 6  | Department of Health or his designee.   |
| 7  | * * *   |
| 8  | (19) The assistant secretary of the office of juvenile justice of the             |
| 9  | Department of Public Safety and Corrections or his designee.                      |
| 10 | * * *   |
| 11 | (29) <u>State child ombudsman, who shall serve as a nonvoting ex officio</u>      |
| 12 | member. A representative of the Louisiana Association of Nonprofit Organizations. |
| 13 | * * *   |
| 14 | (42) A representative of the Louisiana Occupational Therapy Association.          |
| 15 | * * *   |
| 16 | G. The advisory board may establish subcommittees that include but are not        |
| 17 | limited to an Ezekiel's Law subcommittee.   |
|    |   |

# DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, 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)]

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|------------------------|----------------------|-------|
| HB 137 Reengrossed     | 2024 Regular Session | Brass |

Abstract: Provides for changes to the organization, reporting requirements, membership, and authority of the Children's Cabinet Advisory Board (board). Provides for changes of the membership of the Children's Cabinet (cabinet).

Present law directs the board to make recommendations to the cabinet as to budget priorities for the coming year by Aug. 31 annually.

Present law directs the board to make recommendations to the cabinet as to specific budget items to be supported in the Children's Budget by Nov. 30 annually.

Proposed law combines the board's recommendations to the cabinet as to budget priorities and specific budget items into one recommendation required to be submitted annually by Sept. 30.

<u>Proposed law</u> adds the state child ombudsman as a nonvoting ex officio member of the board.

<u>Proposed law</u> repeals board membership for a representative of the La. Assoc. of Nonprofit Organizations.

<u>Proposed law</u> permits the board to establish subcommittees including an Ezekiel's Law subcommittee.

Proposed law adds a representative of the La. Occupational Therapy Association.

Proposed law grants the following board members the option to appoint a designee:

- (1) The director of the State Head Start Collaboration Project.
- (2) The assistant secretary of child welfare of the Dept. of Children and Family Services.
- (3) The assistant secretary of the office of citizens with developmental disabilities of the La. Dept. of Health (LDH).
- (4) The assistant secretary of the office of public health of LDH.
- (5) The assistant secretary of the office of behavioral health of LDH.
- (6) The assistant secretary of the bureau of health services financing of LDH.
- (7) The assistant secretary of the office of juvenile justice of the Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections.

Proposed law grants the following cabinet members the option to appoint a designee:

- (1) The secretary of the Dept. of Children and Family Services.
- (2) The secretary of the La. Dept. of Health.
- (3) The deputy secretary for youth services of the Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections.
- (4) The secretary of the La. Workforce Commission.
- (5) The state superintendent of education.
- (6) The commissioner of administration.
- (7) The executive director of the cabinet.
- (8) A member of the House appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives.
- (9) A member of the Senate appointed by the president of the Senate.
- (10) A representative of the Children's Cabinet Advisory Board as selected by its members.
- (11) A member of the La. Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges appointed by the chief justice of the La. Sup. Ct.
- (12) A member of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education appointed by its president.

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(Amends R.S. 46:2602(B) and 2605(A) and (B)(7), (11), (13)-(16), (19), and (29); Adds R.S. 46:2605(B)(42) and (G))

## Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

- The Committee Amendments Proposed by <u>House Committee on Health and Welfare to</u> the <u>original</u> bill:
- 1. Add that the state ombudsman is a nonvoting ex officio member of the Children's Cabinet Advisory Board.

### The House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill:

- 1. Add that the members of the Children's Cabinet may designate an individual to be a member of the cabinet in their stead.
- 2. Add a representative of the La. Occupational Therapy Association to the Children's Cabinet Advisory Board.