

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT

HB 559

2025 Regular Session

Echols

June 12, 2025

To the Honorable Speaker and Members of the House of Representatives and the Honorable President and Members of the Senate.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We, the conferees appointed to confer over the disagreement between the two houses concerning House Bill No. 559 by Representative Echols, recommend the following concerning the Reengrossed bill:

1. That the set of Senate Committee Amendments by the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare (#2362) be rejected.
2. That the set of Senate Floor Amendments by Senator Seabaugh (#2634) be rejected.
3. That the following amendments to the Reengrossed bill be adopted:

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, line 2, delete "R.S. 28:914(D)(1) and 918(A)" and insert in lieu thereof "R.S. 28:918(A)"

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 1, line 8, delete "R.S. 28:914(D)(1) and 918(A) are" and insert in lieu thereof "R.S. 28:918(A) is"

AMENDMENT NO. 3

On page 1, delete lines 12 through 18 in their entirety

AMENDMENT NO. 4

On page 2, line 5, change "insure" to "ensure"

AMENDMENT NO. 5

On page 2, line 16, delete "individuals and" and insert "officials"

AMENDMENT NO. 6

On page 2, line 17, delete "their staffs"

AMENDMENT NO. 7

On page 2, line 18, change "at the state capitol." to "in Baton Rouge."

Respectfully submitted,

Representative Michael Charles Echols

Senator Patrick Connick

Representative Dustin Miller

Senator Patrick McMath

Representative Christopher Turner

Senator Kirk Talbot

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT DIGEST

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Keyword and oneliner of the instrument as it left the House

HEALTH/LDH: Provides relative to human services districts and boards

Report rejects Senate amendments which would have:

1. Removed authority for the surgeon general and secretary of the La. Dept. of Health to confirm an executive director of a human services district or authority board.
2. Added qualifications for an executive director of a human services district or authority board.
3. Reassigned responsibilities and duties added by proposed law from human services district and authority boards to the Human Services Interagency Council.
4. Modified the contents of an annual report required to be submitted by Human Services Interagency Council.
5. Removed provisions relative to the authority of the La. Dept. of Health to monitor certain behavioral health services provided by human services district or authority board.

Report amends the bill to:

1. Remove authority for the surgeon general and secretary of the La. Dept. of Health to confirm an executive director of a human services district or authority board.
2. Provide that each human services district and authority board shall present on the work completed in their jurisdiction to elected officials in Baton Rouge annually.

Digest of the bill as proposed by the Conference Committee

Proposed law provides for the duties of human services districts and boards (boards).

Present law provides that the executive director of a board is hired by the board.

Proposed law retains present law.

Proposed law directs the boards to complete all of the following:

- (1) Adopt consistent performance indicators.
- (2) Evaluate insurance and Medicaid billing practices.
- (3) Focus on primary care integration.
- (4) Conduct annual patient satisfaction surveys.
- (5) Reduce reliance on state funding.
- (6) Prepare an annual report that summarizes the board's progress toward achieving statewide health goals established by La. Dept. of Health (LDH).
- (7) Hold an annual meeting to inform and educate elected officials in Baton Rouge.

Proposed law provides that the annual report required by proposed law shall include all of the following:

- (1) An overview of programs and initiatives undertaken in the preceding year.
- (2) Metrics indicating performance and outcomes relative to the statewide health goals.
- (3) Identified challenges and barriers to progress.
- (4) Plans for improvement or adjustment in the upcoming year.

Proposed law provides that LDH shall establish criteria for the boards to evaluate their performance.

Proposed law tasks LDH with compiling reports required by proposed law and providing a report to the legislature on Feb. 1st of each year.

Present law provides that the secretary of LDH, upon consultation with the boards, shall be responsible for oversight of statewide human services systems.

Proposed law provides that the secretary shall be responsible for oversight of statewide human services systems.

(Amends R.S. 28:918(A); Adds R.S. 28:914(E))