

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 855 (HB 944)

2026 Regular Session

Hilferty

New law establishes the Women's Health Consortium (consortium) within the La. Dept. of Health (LDH), office on women's health and community health.

New law provides for the membership of the consortium.

New law authorizes the consortium to engage and solicit input, recommendations, and guidance from specified healthcare organizations, educational institutions, and stakeholder groups.

New law provides that members serve at the pleasure of their appointing authorities and authorizes the consortium to adopt procedures and policies for governance, including member removal and vacancy procedures.

New law provides that consortium members serve without compensation and further provides that reimbursement of expenses shall be the responsibility of the entity or agency represented by the member.

New law requires the consortium to elect a chairman and vice chairman from among its membership and authorizes the election of additional officers.

New law provides that the domicile of the consortium shall be East Baton Rouge Parish and authorizes meetings to be held elsewhere in the state.

New law authorizes the consortium to meet at times and places determined by the membership, establishes quorum requirements, and requires an affirmative vote of a majority of the quorum present and voting for official action.

New law requires the consortium and its meetings to comply with the Open Meetings Law.

New law requires participating departments to provide reasonable administrative assistance and staff support to the consortium, subject to available personnel, appropriated funding, and existing resources.

New law provides for the functions of the consortium, including development of a Funding Priority Program for Women's Health Initiatives and an Interagency Women's Health Agenda.

New law requires the consortium to identify and evaluate health issues affecting women, including perimenopause, menopause, and postmenopause, and to provide recommendations regarding healthcare innovation, medical education and training, workforce impacts, information sharing, public education, and evidence-based resources.

New law requires the consortium and its members to maintain the confidentiality of information, data, and records in accordance with applicable federal and state law.

New law requires the consortium to submit a written report to the David R. Poynter Legislative Research Library, the House and Senate committees on health and welfare, and the governor's office prior to the convening of the 2027 Regular Session of the Legislature.

New law provides that the duties and responsibilities of the consortium shall be implemented only to the extent funding is appropriated or otherwise made available.

New law specifies that new law does not require LDH or any participating agency to create new positions, enter into contracts, expend additional funds, or implement consortium recommendations absent legislative approval and available funding.

New law further provides that the consortium serves solely in an advisory capacity and that consortium recommendations, reports, findings, and proposals shall not constitute official policy of LDH unless separately adopted by the department.

New law designates LDH as the records custodian for the consortium for purposes of public records and open meetings laws.

New law terminates on June 30, 2027, unless extended by the legislature.

Effective upon signature of governor (June 9, 2026).

(Adds R.S. 46:2527)