
DIGEST

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Simon

HB No. 591

Abstract: Transitions certain functions of the Traumatic Head and Spinal Cord Injury Trust Fund Advisory Board to DHH

Present law creates a special fund in the state treasury known as the Traumatic Head and Spinal Cord Injury Trust Fund, and provides for an account for the monies of such fund within the DHH office of aging and adult services.

Present law creates and provides for the composition and duties of the Traumatic Head and Spinal Cord Injury Trust Fund Advisory Board (board) within the DHH office of aging and adult services.

Present law provides that disbursement of monies from the fund shall be made as determined by the board. Proposed law revises present law to provide that such disbursement of monies be made as determined by DHH, taking into account any recommendations by the board.

Proposed law provides that money in the Traumatic Head and Spinal Cord Injury Trust Fund may be used to match available federal funding in order to provide enhanced or expanded services to eligible persons; provided, however, that money be retained in the fund to provide payment for services for persons who are not eligible for services through federally funded sources.

Proposed law removes authority for the following duties from the board and provides such authority to DHH:

- (1) Determining eligibility of programs to receive funding.
- (2) Promulgating rules and regulations necessary to implement the provisions of present law and proposed law.
- (3) Establishing priorities and criteria for disbursement of the fund and acting to obtain maximum benefits available.
- (4) Investigating the needs of the head-injured and spinal cord-injured, identifying any gaps in services, and preparing and submitting an annual report with recommendations to the legislature and the governor sixty days prior to each regular session of the legislature.

- (5) Monitoring, evaluating, and reviewing the development and quality of services and programs funded through the fund.
- (6) Arranging for full and accurate financial records to be maintained in compliance with law and making a full and complete report to the board annually.

Present law provides for composition of the thirteen-member board.

Proposed law removes the following members from the board:

- (1) The executive director of the La. Head Injury Foundation or his designee.
- (2) The executive director of the La. Spinal Cord Injury Association or his designee.
- (3) The president of the La. Dental Association or his designee.

Proposed law adds the following members to the board:

- (1) The president of the La. Physical Therapy Association or his designee.
- (2) The president of the La. Occupational Therapy Association or his designee.
- (3) The director of La. Rehabilitation Services within the La. Workforce Commission.

Proposed law deletes requirement of present law that the board elect a treasurer from its membership.

Proposed law provides that the board shall serve in an advisory capacity to DHH in all phases of administration by the department of the Traumatic Head and Spinal Cord Injury Trust Fund.

Present law provides that authorized expenditures for spinal cord injury care and head injury care may include but are not limited to post-acute medical care rehabilitation, therapies, medication, attendant care, and equipment necessary for activities of daily living. Proposed law retains present law and provides that authorized expenditures may also include home or vehicle accessibility modifications.

Proposed law provides that equipment necessary for activities of daily living must be related to the spinal cord injury or traumatic head injury in order to qualify as an authorized expenditure from the fund.

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

(Amends R.S. 46:2633(D) and (E), 2634(B)(2), (3), (13), (D), and (H), and 2635(A), (B), and (C); Adds R.S. 46:2633(F))