

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 587

BY REPRESENTATIVE MOORE

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

HEALTH CARE/PROVIDERS: Provides relative to the Louisiana Community Health Worker Workforce Board

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AN ACT

To enact R.S. 36:259(B)(19) and Chapter 61 of Title 37 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, to be comprised of R.S. 37:3721 through 3723, relative to community health workers; to create the Louisiana Community Health Worker Workforce Board within the Louisiana Department of Health; to provide for the powers and duties of the board; to provide for the board membership; to authorize the board to develop training practices for community health workers; to provide for rulemaking authority; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 36:259(B)(19) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§259. Transfer of agencies and functions to Louisiana Department of Health

* * *

B. The following agencies are placed within the Louisiana Department of Health and shall exercise and perform their powers, duties, functions, and responsibilities as otherwise provided by law:

* * *

(19) The Louisiana Community Health Worker Workforce Board (R.S. 37:3721 et seq.).

* * *

1 Section 2. Chapter 61 of Title 37 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950,
2 comprised of R.S. 37:3721 through 3723, is hereby enacted to read as follows:

3 CHAPTER 61. LOUISIANA COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER WORKFORCE

4 §3721. Short Title

5 This Chapter shall be known and may be cited as the "Louisiana Community
6 Health Worker Workforce Practice Act".

7 §3722. Community Health Worker Workforce Board

8 There is hereby created a Louisiana Community Health Worker Workforce
9 Board within the Louisiana Department of Health. It shall consist of eleven
10 members to include a majority of community health workers. The board shall
11 consist of the following members:

12 (1) The director of the Community Health Worker Institute at Louisiana
13 State University Health Sciences Center at New Orleans or his designee.

14 (2) A member of the board of directors of the Louisiana Public Health
15 Institute or his designee.

16 (3) The secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health or his designee,
17 who shall have expertise in community partnerships and health equity.

18 (4) The Medicaid executive director in this state or his designee, who shall
19 have expertise in clinical innovation.

20 (5) The chair of the Louisiana Community Health Outreach Network or his
21 designee.

22 (6) Six community health workers representing community-based
23 organizations and the Louisiana Department of Health's geographical local governing
24 entity regions. These members shall be appointed by the Louisiana Community
25 Health Outreach Network.

26 §3723. Board powers and duties

27 A. The board shall elect a chairman at its first meeting.

28 B. The board shall do all of the following:

- 1 (1) Develop a program to enhance employer readiness in hiring community
2 health workers.
- 3 (2) Develop core skills, roles, and competencies for community health
4 workers in Louisiana.
- 5 (3) Develop standards and requirements for community health worker
6 education and training programs.
- 7 (4) Develop minimum standards for community health worker educators.
- 8 (5) Review community health worker training programs.
- 9 (6) Recommend sustainable methods of financing community health worker
10 services.
- 11 (7) Track community health worker employment in Louisiana.
- 12 C. The board shall meet quarterly and such quarterly meetings may occur in
13 person or virtually.
- 14 D. The board shall adopt rules pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act
15 to implement the provisions of this Chapter.
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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)]

HB 587 Engrossed

2023 Regular Session

Moore

Abstract: Creates the Louisiana Community Health Worker Workforce Board.

Proposed law creates the Louisiana Community Health Worker Workforce Board (the board) and places the board created in proposed law within the La. Dept. of Health.

Proposed law requires certain persons to act as members of the board.

Proposed law provides that the board shall do all of the following duties:

- (1) Develop a program to enhance employer readiness in hiring community health workers.
- (2) Develop core skills, roles, and competencies for community health workers in Louisiana.
- (3) Develop standards and requirements for community health worker education and training programs.
- (4) Develop minimum standards for community health worker educators.

- (5) Review community health worker training programs.
- (6) Recommend sustainable methods of financing community health worker services.
- (7) Track community health worker employment in Louisiana.

Proposed law gives the board rulemaking authority.

Proposed law requires the board to meet quarterly. Proposed law further provides that such meetings may occur in person or virtually.

Proposed law provides that the board shall adopt rules in accordance with present law to implement the provisions required by proposed law.

(Adds R.S. 36:259(B)(19) and R.S. 37:3721-3723)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

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

1. Add a Chapter title.
2. Change the number of members on the Workforce Board from 23 to 11.
3. Add a majority requirement for the inclusion of community health workers on the board.
4. Remove the dean of the Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine from the board and add a member from the board of directors of the La. Public Health Institute to the board.
5. Remove the assistant secretary of the La. Dept. of Health from the board.
6. Remove the representative of the La. Managed Medicaid Assoc. and certain other members from the board.
7. Change the amount of community health workers representing community-based organizations from 11 to six.
8. Require the La. Community Health Outreach Network to appoint members instead of the governor.
9. Remove members appointed by the president of the Senate and the speaker of the House of Representatives from the board.
10. Delete the duty of the board to develop a certification program for community health workers.
11. Add language that requires the board to meet quarterly and establishes certain accessibility requirements.
12. Make technical corrections.