

ACT No. 174

2018 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 658

BY REPRESENTATIVE LEGER

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 40:1086.12, relative to neonatal opiate withdrawal syndrome; to provide for
3 a pilot project; to provide for the creation of the pilot project; to provide for the
4 duties of the Louisiana Department of Health in establishing the pilot project; to
5 provide for definitions; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 40:1086.12 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

8 §1086.12. Neonatal opiate withdrawal syndrome pilot project

9 (1) For the purpose of this Section, the following definitions apply:

10 (a) "Department" means the Louisiana Department of Health.

11 (b) "Infant" includes both a newborn and an infant.

12 (c) "Neonatal opiate withdrawal syndrome" means the postnatal opioid
13 withdrawal experienced by an infant who is exposed in utero to prescribed or illicit
14 opioids or agents used to treat maternal opioid addiction.

15 (2)(a) The department shall establish an evidence-based pilot project
16 conducted by a multi-disciplinary team to treat infants with neonatal opiate
17 withdrawal syndrome by providing care options that are safe alternatives to the
18 intensive care unit in existing community or hospital settings for eligible
19 mother-infant dyads. This pilot shall prioritize co-location of the mother-infant dyad,
20 maternal access to evidence-based treatment of substance use disorder, and
21 promotion of practices that minimize harm and improve outcomes in infants, in
22 keeping with up-to-date clinical evidence.

1 (b) In order to scale evidence-based best practices statewide, the department,
 2 in coordination with Department of Children and Family Services, shall convene
 3 stakeholders and providers from around the state, including but not limited to the
 4 Louisiana Commission on Perinatal Care and Prevention of Infant Mortality and the
 5 Louisiana Perinatal Quality Collaborative, in order to promote evidence-based care
 6 of infants with neonatal opiate withdrawal syndrome.

7 (3) The department shall study comparative outcomes, risks, benefits, and
 8 cost differentials for the treatment of infants with neonatal opiate withdrawal
 9 syndrome in hospital and community settings included in this pilot program.

10 (4) The department may provide access to United States Food and Drug
 11 Administration approved medication-assisted treatment including agonist, partial-
 12 agonist, and antagonist medications for the treatment of opioid use disorders, in
 13 conjunction with detoxification services for females with a history of giving birth to
 14 neonatal abstinence syndrome affected infants.

15 (5) The department shall take all steps necessary to implement this Section,
 16 including but not limited to the promulgation of rules and regulations in accordance
 17 with the Administrative Procedures Act, and may seek a waiver from the Centers for
 18 Medicare and Medicaid Services if needed.

19 (6) The pilot project may be administered consistent with the Controlled
 20 Substance Act, as amended by Section 303 of the Comprehensive Addiction and
 21 Recovery Act of 2016.

22 (7) This pilot project is subject to specific appropriation by the legislature.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____