

RURAL **HEALTH** WORKSHOP

Louisiana State Legislative Updates



Speakers

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 - Health Policy Manager
 - Well-Ahead Louisiana



- Zach Snyder, JD, MPA
 - Policy Analyst
 - Louisiana Rural Health Association



Learning Objectives

- Learn how to track legislation
- Learn how to provide comment during session during committee hearings
- Understand how the legislative system works in Louisiana and how it affects the work you do

State Legislative Process

- 2023 Legislative Session: April 10th to June 8th
- Typically, a flurry of proposals with just a fraction becoming law.
- 2022 Session Example:
 - 1,582 bills; 718 resolutions; and 42 constitutional amendments
 - 268 health care bills (137 House and 131 Senate)
 - 776 bills passed into law



HB 587 (Community Health Worker Bill)

- Establishes the Community Health Worker Workforce Board and authorizes it make policy recommendations back to the Legislature.
- The Board will consist of multiple individuals, which includes six community health workers representing community-based organizations.
- Requires such community health workers to represent all areas of the state, **including rural areas.**

SB 66 (Telehealth)

- Repeals provisions relative to “telemedicine” and specifies that telehealth includes a provider’s practice of care when conducted through electronic communications.
- Prohibits any requirement for an in-person patient history or physical examination of a patient before engaging in a telehealth encounter unless the healthcare provider is prescribing a controlled dangerous substance.
- Note that gender affirming care bill (HB 648) is politically tied to this bill.

SB 181 (SB 233) Health Care Provider Fund Bill

- Creates the “Expanding Louisiana's Health Care Workforce Fund” as a special fund.
- Grant funding for partnerships between private institutions, employers and post-secondary institutions to pursue innovative collaborations seeking to expand the capacity of the state to recruit, educate and train individuals seeking to enter nursing and allied health professions.
- Note: Dead for the session, but the policy is still interesting for rural health issues.

HCR 83 (Specialist Physician Shortage Bill)

- Requests LDH to create a task force to study, identify, and make recommendations to address the shortage of specialist physicians in this state.
- Taskforce lists members that need to be included, topics to study, and a deadline to submit the report.
- Study the landscape of specialist physician care and make recommendations for best practice.
- Resolutions can lead to further bills or appropriations.

Regulatory Implementation Process

- Three types of implementation: Study Resolution, Task force Resolution, and Rulemaking
- Study resolutions are extremely common and direct LDH to write a report
- Task force resolutions are also common and require LDH to convene a task force with specific organizations
- Rulemaking implementation comes from substantive programmatic changes
 - Example: Rural Loan Repayment Legislation from the 2022 Session

Contact Information

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Questions?

We want to hear from you!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RCNMXFH>



RURAL **HEALTH** WORKSHOP

Break with Exhibitors: 9:30 – 10:00 a.m.

Breakout Sessions: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Lunch and Learn: 12:00 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.

