

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 581 (SB 561)

2018 Regular Session

Barrow

New law creates the "Empowering Families to Live Well Louisiana Act".

Authorizes creation of the Empowering Families to Live Well Louisiana Council and Strategic Plan.

Provides that to assist and empower struggling families throughout La., the council will be established within the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) which will exercise and perform its powers, duties, functions, and responsibilities in the manner provided for agencies transferred in accordance with present law.

Provides for the composition of the membership of the council.

Requires the secretary of DCFS, or designee, and a member of the Senate, appointed by the Senate president, to serve as cochairs of the council.

Provides that the council will have as its purpose the goal of pursuing programs and policies which reduce deprivation and hardship, while promoting the well-being and health of all Louisianians.

Requires the council to:

- (1) Seek private sector funding to be used with public funds to support evidence-based, innovative solutions to poverty.
- (2) Seek funding for grant programs targeted at local government entities, nonprofit organizations, faith-based organizations, and other qualified community-based organizations directly serving people in La.

Authorizes the council to:

- (1) Solicit guidance from in-state and national experts.
- (2) Work to develop mechanisms to coordinate assistance and services offered by state departments to best address the needs of families throughout the state.

Requires the council to adopt rules and procedures for conducting meetings.

Provides that the council may receive and expend funds appropriated or made available by the legislature or from any other source, including donations or gifts of money or services from public or private organizations or from any other sources, to be utilized for the purposes of the council.

Requires the council to submit an implementation plan to the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare and the House Committee on Health and Welfare, meeting jointly, for approval by June 30, 2019, that includes administrative and legislative policy recommendations. Authorizes an interim report to be filed prior to the 2019 R.S. with legislative recommendations.

Requires the council to present an annual report on the development of an implementation plan to the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare and the House Committee on Health and Welfare, meeting jointly, no later than Jan. 31, of each year.

Authorizes the creation of a special fund, the "Live Well Louisiana Fund" to be used as directed by the council to fund grants and projects to reduce poverty and promote well-being.

Effective upon signature of the governor (May 31, 2018).

(Adds R.S. 51:1055-1058)