

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 528

BY REPRESENTATIVE EGAN

VETERANS: Establishes the position of director of medical affairs of the Department of Veterans Affairs

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 36:785, relative to the deputy secretary of the Department of  
3 Veterans Affairs; to establish the position of director of medical services; to provide  
4 for responsibilities; to provide for salary; and to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 36:785 is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

7 §785. Deputy secretary

8 A. There may be a deputy secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs  
9 who shall be appointed by the secretary with consent of the Senate and who shall  
10 serve at the pleasure of the secretary at a salary fixed by the secretary, which salary  
11 shall not exceed the amount approved for such position by the legislature while in  
12 session. The duties and functions of the deputy secretary shall be determined and  
13 assigned by the secretary. If appointed, he shall serve as acting secretary in the  
14 absence of the secretary.

15 B. The deputy secretary may serve concurrently as the director of medical  
16 services who shall oversee medical operations at the veterans' homes of this state and  
17 provide oversight over all contracted physicians and manage veteran mental health  
18 programs and veteran homelessness within the department. If the deputy secretary  
19 also serves as the director of medical services, the salary shall be set by the secretary.

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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)]

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HB 528 Original

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Egan

**Abstract:** Establishes the position of director of medical services within the Dept. of Veterans Affairs.

Present law provides that the Dept. of Veterans Affairs may have a deputy secretary who is appointed by the secretary and confirmed by the Senate.

Present law also provides that the deputy secretary serves at the pleasure of the secretary who determines the deputy secretary's salary and duties.

Proposed law retains present law and establishes a new position of director of medical services within the department which can be served concurrently by a deputy secretary. Proposed law also describes the duties of the position and authorizes the secretary to set the salary for that position.

(Amends R.S. 36:785)