

Regular Session, 2004

HOUSE BILL NO. 1535

BY REPRESENTATIVE CROWE

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES: Provides for a toll-free hotline for alcohol abuse

1 AN ACT

2 To enact Part VI of Chapter 4 of Title 26 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950 to be
3 comprised of R.S. 26:751 and Chapter 18 of Title 28 of the Louisiana Revised
4 Statutes of 1950 to be comprised of R.S. 28:871 and 872, relative to alcohol abuse;
5 to require the office of alcohol and tobacco control to require posting of signs on
6 certain licensed premises; to provide for a toll-free number and referral services for
7 alcohol abuse; to provide for a fine for failure to post; to require the office for
8 addictive disorders of the Department of Health and Hospitals to provide a toll-free
9 telephone service; to create a special fund in the state treasury known as the Alcohol
10 Abuse Toll-Free Fund; and to provide for related matters.

11 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

12 Section 1. Part VI of Chapter 4 of Title 26 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950,
13 comprised of R.S. 26:751, is hereby enacted to read as follows:

14 PART VI. TOLL-FREE HOTLINE

15 §751. Toll-free telephone assistance for alcohol abuse and problem drinkers; posting
16 of signs on premises

17 The office of alcohol and tobacco control shall require the posting of one or
18 more signs on premises holding a Class A-General retail liquor permit for high or
19 low alcoholic content or microbrewery permit at each point of entry to inform patrons
20 of a toll-free telephone number available to provide information and referral services

1 regarding alcohol abuse and problem drinking. Failure by the owner of the licensed
2 premises to post and maintain such a sign or signs shall be cause for the imposition
3 of a fine not to exceed two hundred fifty dollars per day.

4 Section 2. Chapter 18 of Title 28 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950,
5 comprised of R.S. 28:871 and 872, is hereby enacted to read as follows:

6 CHAPTER 18. ALCOHOL ABUSE AND PROBLEM DRINKING

7 §871. Office for addictive disorders; functions related to alcohol abuse and problem
8 drinking

9 A. The office for addictive disorders of the Department of Health and
10 Hospitals shall provide information and referral services related to alcohol abuse
11 and/or problem drinking and shall include a twenty-four hour, toll-free telephone
12 service, operated by persons with knowledge of programs and services available to
13 assist persons suffering from alcohol abuse or problem drinking behavior.

14 B. The office shall make information regarding the services available to the
15 public and shall provide by rule for the design of an informational sign containing the
16 toll-free telephone number for use in various establishments licensed with a Class A-
17 General alcohol retail permit to serve or sell alcohol of high or low alcoholic content
18 or microbrewery. The office shall provide such signs to the office of alcohol and
19 tobacco control, which shall require their posting at licensed premises, pursuant to
20 R.S. 26:751.

21 §872. Alcohol Abuse Toll-Free Hotline Fund; creation

22 A. There is hereby created, as a special fund in the state treasury, the Alcohol
23 Abuse Toll-Free Hotline Fund.

24 B. After compliance with the requirements of Article VII, Section 9(B) of the
25 Constitution of Louisiana, an amount equal to the monies received by the state
26 treasury pursuant to the provisions of R.S. 26:751(B) shall be deposited into the
27 Alcohol Abuse Toll-Free Hotline Fund. All unexpended and unencumbered monies
28 in the fund at the end of any fiscal year shall remain in the fund for use in subsequent
29 fiscal years. Monies in the fund shall be invested by the state treasurer in the manner

1 as monies in the state general fund and interest earned on the investment of such
2 monies shall be credited to the fund after compliance with the requirements of Article
3 VII, Section 9(B) of the Constitution of Louisiana. Monies in the fund shall only be
4 withdrawn pursuant to an appropriation by the legislature solely to implement the
5 provisions of this Chapter.

6 C. All monies received by the state treasury pursuant to the provisions of
7 R.S. 27:751(B) shall be deposited into the Alcohol Abuse Toll-Free Hotline Fund.
8 The monies in the Alcohol Abuse Toll-Free Hotline Fund shall be appropriated by
9 the legislature.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument.

Crowe

HB No. 1535

Abstract: Requires DHH, office for addictive disorders to provide a 24-hour toll-free hotline related to alcohol abuse. Requires the posting of signs in certain retail establishments. Creates an Alcohol Abuse Toll-Free Hotline Fund.

Proposed law requires the office of alcohol and tobacco control to require the posting of one or more signs on premises holding a Class A-General retail liquor permit for high or low alcoholic content or microbrewery permit at each point of entry to inform patrons of a toll-free telephone number available to provide information and referral services regarding alcohol abuse and problem drinking.

Proposed law provides for a penalty not to exceed \$250 a day for failure by the owner of the licensed premises to post and maintain such a sign or signs.

Proposed law requires the monies collected by the office to be forwarded to the state treasurer for immediate deposit into the state treasury and requires the state treasurer to credit that amount to the Alcohol Abuse Toll-Free Hotline Fund each year.

Proposed law requires the office for addictive disorders of the Dept. of Health and Hospitals to referral services related to alcohol abuse and/or problem drinking and shall include a 24-hour, toll-free telephone service operated by persons with knowledge of programs and services available to assist persons suffering from alcohol abuse or problem drinking behavior.

Proposed law requires the office to make information regarding the program and services available to the public and to provide, by rule, for the design of an informational sign containing the toll-free telephone number for use in various establishments licensed with a Class A-General alcohol retail permit to serve or sell alcohol of high or low alcoholic content or microbrewery.

Proposed law requires the office to provide such signs to the office of alcohol and tobacco control, which shall require their posting at certain licensed premises.

Proposed law creates a special fund in the state treasury to be known as the Alcohol Abuse Toll-Free Hotline Fund and requires all monies received by the state treasury to be deposited into the Alcohol Abuse Toll-Free Hotline Fund which monies are required to be appropriated by the legislature.

(Adds R.S. 26:751 and R.S. 28:871 and 872)