
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)]

HB 971 Engrossed

2026 Regular Session

Stagni

Abstract: Requires the La. Dept. of Health (LDH) to take all necessary actions to ensure that independent rural health clinics are reimbursed by Medicaid at the same rate as provider-based rural health clinics.

Present law defines a rural health clinic as a facility that provides primary healthcare services to outpatients located in an area that is not an urbanized area as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau.

Proposed law requires the secretary of LDH to take all necessary actions to equalize Medicaid reimbursement rates between independent rural health clinics and provider-based rural health clinics.

Proposed law requires LDH to take any necessary action to implement the provisions of proposed law including filing a Medicaid state plan amendment or promulgating and adopting rules.

Proposed law requires the department to implement the provisions of proposed law, including filing the necessary state plan amendment, no later than Oct. 1, 2026.

(Adds R.S. 40:2197.1)