

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 357

BY REPRESENTATIVE ECHOLS

WORKERS COMPENSATION: Provides for the adoption of a medical fee reimbursement schedule for workers' compensation

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 23:1034.2(A) and (C)(1) and (2) and to enact R.S.
3 23:1034.2(C)(5), relative to workers' compensation; to provide for the adoption of
4 a medical reimbursement schedule; to require that the fees be based on other similar
5 regional states; to provide for the authority of the assistant secretary to promulgate
6 the medical reimbursement schedule; to require certain duties of the assistant
7 secretary; to provide for the collection of any necessary information and data under
8 certain circumstances; to provide for legislative oversight; and to provide for related
9 matters.

10 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

11 Section 1. R.S. 23:1034.2(A) and (C)(1) and (2) are hereby amended and reenacted
12 and R.S. 23:1034.2(C)(5) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

13 §1034.2. Reimbursement schedule

14 A. The assistant secretary of the office of workers' compensation
15 administration shall establish and promulgate a reimbursement schedule for drugs,
16 supplies, hospital care and services, medical and surgical treatment, and any
17 nonmedical treatment recognized by the laws of this state as legal and due ~~under the~~
18 ~~Workers' Compensation Act~~ pursuant to this Chapter and applicable to any person
19 or corporation who renders such care, services, or treatment or provides such drugs

1 or supplies to any person covered by this Chapter ~~10 of Title 23 of the Louisiana~~
2 ~~Revised Statutes of 1950.~~

3 * * *

4 C.(1) The reimbursement schedule shall ~~include charges limited to the mean~~
5 ~~of the usual and customary charges for such care, services, treatment, drugs, and~~
6 ~~supplies~~ be reasonable when compared to the workers' compensation reimbursement
7 schedule and have similar characteristics of surrounding states. Any necessary
8 adjustments to the reimbursement schedule adopted and established in accordance
9 with the provisions of this Section ~~may~~ shall be made annually and supported by data
10 and information provided in Paragraph (2) of this Subsection. The assistant secretary
11 shall promulgate the initial reimbursement schedule.

12 (2) The assistant secretary shall ~~have the authority to collect the information~~
13 ~~and data necessary to calculate the reimbursement schedule.~~ do all of the following:

14 (a) Examine potential administrative and procedural relief for healthcare
15 providers to ensure expedited care and payment.

16 (b) Examine potential processes for paperwork reductions for healthcare
17 providers.

18 (c) Examine potential processes to expand medical markets for more access
19 to patient care.

20 (d) Include and consider any and all additional external stakeholders and
21 partners in calculating the reimbursement schedule.

22 (e) Collect information and data necessary to calculate the reimbursement
23 schedule. The collection of information and data shall be governed by the following
24 guidelines:

25 ~~(a)~~ (i) The assistant secretary shall create a written survey detailing the
26 information requested.

27 ~~(b)~~ (ii) The survey shall be managed by the office of workers' compensation
28 administration in conjunction with an academic institution.

supplies. Present law further provides that any necessary adjustments to the reimbursement schedule may be made annually.

Proposed law instead requires that the reimbursement schedule be reasonable when compared to the workers' compensation reimbursement schedule and have similar characteristics of surrounding states. Proposed law also requires that any necessary adjustments to the reimbursement schedule shall be made annually and supported by data and information provided for in present law and proposed law.

Proposed law requires the assistant secretary to promulgate the initial reimbursement schedule, which shall be effective on Jan. 1, 2027.

Present law provides that the assistant secretary shall have the authority to collect the information and data necessary to calculate the reimbursement schedule. Present law further provides the guidelines for collecting the required information and data.

Proposed law retains present law.

Proposed law requires the assistant secretary to do all of the following:

- (1) Examine potential administrative and procedural relief for healthcare providers to ensure expedited care and payment.
- (2) Examine potential processes for paperwork reductions for healthcare providers.
- (3) Examine potential processes to expand medical markets for more access to patient care.
- (4) Include and consider any and all additional external stakeholders and partners in calculating the reimbursement schedule.
- (5) Collect information and data necessary to calculate the reimbursement schedule.

Proposed law requires the office of workers' compensation to report quarterly to the House and Senate committees on labor and industrial relations regarding the rate study and process and requires the committees to have legislative oversight over the process.

(Amends R.S. 23:1034.2(A) and (C)(1) and (2); Adds R.S. 23:1034.2(C)(5))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Labor and Industrial Relations to the original bill:

1. Make technical changes.