

2017 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 88

BY SENATOR LONG

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

HEALTH CARE. Provides for a rural health clinic look-alike. (8/1/17)

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AN ACT

To enact R.S. 46:460.72, relative to rural health clinic look-alike entities; to provide for creation of a provider type in any parish with a population greater than thirty-nine thousand and less than forty-one thousand, according to the latest federal decennial census; to provide for Medicaid reimbursement; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 46:460.72 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

**§460.72. Reimbursement; rural health clinic look-alike**

**A. A rural health clinic look-alike is a physician's office, urgent care clinic, or similar health care provider setting which the Louisiana Department of Health finds to meet all material requirements for licensure as a rural health clinic except those based on location, and its physical location is less than two miles from a location where the health care provider would be eligible for certification as a rural health clinic.**

**B. The department shall cause each managed care organization defined in R.S. 46:460.51 to pay for the services provided by physicians, advanced practice registered nurses, and physician assistants in a rural health clinic look-**

1 alike the same amount and according to the same terms as rural health clinics.

2 C. The provisions of this Section shall only apply:

3 (1) In any parish with a population greater than thirty-nine thousand  
 4 and less than forty-one thousand, according to the latest federal decennial  
 5 census.

6 (2) To physicians, advanced practice registered nurses, and physician  
 7 assistants who are enrolled as providers in the Louisiana Medicaid program and  
 8 the services they provide are otherwise reimbursable as Medicaid covered  
 9 services.

10 (3) If it can be implemented through the use of federal Medicaid  
 11 matching funds.

12 D. The legislature finds and declares that the intent of this Section is to  
 13 provide for a minimum Medicaid reimbursement amount paid for otherwise  
 14 eligible Medicaid services to health care providers in certain parishes.

15 E. The Louisiana Department of Health shall submit a written report to  
 16 the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget no later than October 1, 2017,  
 17 to include identification of all necessary actions required to implement the  
 18 provisions of this Section and a timeline for such implementation.

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Christine Arbo Peck.

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DIGEST

SB 88 Engrossed

2017 Regular Session

Long

Proposed law creates rural health clinic look-alike entities, a new Medicaid provider type designation, in any parish with a population greater than thirty-nine thousand and less than forty-one thousand, according to the latest federal decennial census. Proposed law establishes that a rural health clinic look-alike may be physicians, advanced practice registered nurses, and physician assistants that do not meet the federal criteria of rural health clinic, but are within two miles of a location that would satisfy the criteria. Proposed law mandates Medicaid reimbursement for rural health clinic look-alike providers at the rate established for rural health clinics if reimbursement is implemented through federal matching funds.

Proposed law provides that the Louisiana Department of Health shall submit a written report to the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget no later than October 1, 2017, with a status update on implementation of proposed law.

Effective August 1, 2017.

(Adds R.S. 46:460.72)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Health and Welfare to the original bill

1. Limits bill applicability to any parish with a population greater than thirty-nine thousand and less than forty-one thousand, according to the latest federal decennial census.
2. Changes physical location from less than three miles to less than two miles from a location where the health care provider would have otherwise satisfied the requirements of a rural health clinic.
3. Identifies physicians, advanced practice registered nurses, and physician's assistants as provider types eligible for enhanced Medicaid reimbursement as a rural health clinic look-alike.
4. Clarifies that legislative intent is to pay these providers a certain minimum Medicaid reimbursement rate if it can be implemented with federal Medicaid matching funds.
5. Requires the Louisiana Department of Health to submit a report by October 1, 2017, regarding status of implementation.