
DIGEST

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HB 453 Original

2021 Regular Session

Deshotel

Abstract: Expands eligibility for a hospital assessment and intergovernmental transfer program within Medicaid and revises other provisions pertaining to the program.

Present law provides that, for its purposes, "rural institutional provider" means a hospital, other than one defined in the Rural Hospital Preservation Act (R.S. 40:1189.3 of present law), that is licensed by the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH), has no more than 60 beds on November 1, 2020, and meets any of the following criteria:

- (1) Is located in a municipality with a population of between 7,000 and 7,500 according to the most recent federal decennial census and in a parish with a population of between 30,000 and 35,000 according to that census (Ville Platte in Evangeline Parish).
- (2) Is located in a municipality with a population of between 10,000 and 10,500 according to the most recent federal decennial census and in a parish with a population of between 80,000 and 90,000 according to that census (Eunice in St. Landry Parish).
- (3) Is located in a municipality with a population of between 3,000 and 3,500 according to the most recent federal decennial census and in a parish with a population of between 30,000 and 35,000 according to that census (Mamou in Evangeline Parish and Welsh in Jefferson Davis Parish).

Proposed law revises present law to provide that, for its purposes, "rural institutional provider" means an acute care hospital, other than one defined in the Rural Hospital Preservation Act (R.S. 40:1189.3 of present law), that is licensed by LDH and meets any of the following criteria:

- (1) Is located in a parish with a population of between 33,500 and 35,000 according to the most recent federal decennial census (Evangeline Parish).
- (2) Is located in a parish with a population of between 80,000 and 90,000 according to the most recent federal decennial census (St. Landry Parish).
- (3) Is located in a parish with a population of between 46,000 and 47,000 according to the most recent federal decennial census (Lincoln Parish).
- (4) Is located in a parish with a population of between 40,000 and 42,000 according to the most recent federal decennial census (Webster Parish).

Present law applies exclusively to the following five parishes:

- (1) Any parish with a population of not less than 40,000 persons and not more than 42,000 persons according to the most recent federal decennial census (Webster Parish).
- (2) Any parish with a population of not less than 46,000 persons and not more than 47,000 persons according to the most recent federal decennial census (Lincoln Parish).
- (3) Any parish in which a rural institutional provider, as defined by present law, is located (Evangeline, Jefferson Davis, and St. Landry parishes).

Proposed law revises present law such that present law and proposed law would apply exclusively to the following six parishes:

- (1) Any parish with a population of not less than 40,000 persons and not more than 42,000 persons according to the most recent federal decennial census (Webster Parish).
- (2) Any parish with a population of not less than 46,000 persons and not more than 47,000 persons according to the most recent federal decennial census (Lincoln Parish).
- (3) Any parish with a population of not less than 42,000 persons and not more than 45,000 persons according to the most recent federal decennial census (Avoyelles Parish).
- (4) Any parish with a population of between 33,500 and 35,000 according to the most recent federal decennial census (Evangeline Parish).
- (5) Any parish with a population of between 80,000 and 90,000 according to the most recent federal decennial census (St. Landry Parish).
- (6) Any parish with a population of not less than 52,300 persons and not more than 52,700 persons according to the most recent federal decennial census (Vernon Parish).

Present law authorizes eligible parishes to collect local hospital assessment payments and create special accounts known as "local provider participation funds". Provides that monies in such funds may consist of these assessment payments and other funding as authorized by present law. Stipulates that the monies in local provider participation funds may only be used for certain purposes including the funding of intergovernmental transfers from a parish to the state to provide the nonfederal share of Medicaid payments for the benefit of rural institutional providers or other hospitals in the parish authorized under the state Medicaid plan. Proposed law retains present law.

Proposed law repeals present law providing that any parishes authorized by present law to establish a local provider participation fund may, upon agreement of the governing authorities of each parish, establish a single fund for the benefit of those parishes and a local hospital assessment applicable to the institutional providers in those parishes.

Proposed law provides that the governing bodies of parishes authorized by proposed law to establish a local provider participation fund are authorized and empowered, upon their own initiative, to form and create one or more hospital assessment districts within the respective parishes; or, with agreement among governing bodies of parishes concerned, to combine two or more parishes into a single hospital assessment district. Authorizes the governing bodies of the parishes to alter the boundaries of any hospital assessment district, provided that no such boundary change shall cause an impairment of the obligations of any contract of the hospital assessment district.

(Amends R.S. 40:1248.1(6), 1248.3(3), 1248.4(D), 1248.5(A), 1248.7(C)(1), and 1248.8(D); Adds R.S. 40:1248.1(7) and 1248.3(4)-(6))