

2022 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 624

BY REPRESENTATIVE PRESSLY

HEALTH CARE/PROVIDERS: Includes behavioral health services providers within the definition of "healthcare provider" in the La. Telehealth Access Act

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 40:1223.3(3), relative to healthcare services; to provide relative  
3 to telehealth; to provide for healthcare personnel authorized to deliver telehealth  
4 services; to include licensed behavioral health services providers within the set of  
5 providers authorized to deliver such services; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 40:1223.3(3) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

8 §1223.3. Definitions

9 \* \* \*

10 (3) "Healthcare provider" means a person, partnership, limited liability  
11 partnership, limited liability company, corporation, facility, or institution licensed  
12 or certified by this state to provide healthcare or professional services as a physician  
13 assistant, hospital, nursing home, dentist, registered nurse, advanced practice  
14 registered nurse, licensed dietitian or nutritionist, licensed practical nurse, certified  
15 nurse assistant, offshore health service provider, ambulance service, licensed  
16 midwife, pharmacist, speech-language pathologist, audiologist, optometrist,  
17 podiatrist, chiropractor, physical therapist, occupational therapist, certified or  
18 licensed athletic trainer, psychologist, medical psychologist, social worker, licensed  
19 professional counselor, licensed behavioral health services provider, licensed

1 perfusionist, licensed respiratory therapist, licensed radiologic technologist, licensed  
2 hearing aid dealer, or licensed clinical laboratory scientist.

3 \* \* \*

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 624 Original

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Pressly

**Abstract:** Incorporates behavioral health services providers into the set of healthcare providers recognized in the La. Telehealth Access Act.

Present law known as the La. Telehealth Access Act (R.S. 40:1223.1 et seq.) defines "healthcare provider", for purposes of present law relative to telehealth services, as a person, partnership, limited liability partnership, limited liability company, corporation, facility, or institution licensed or certified by this state to provide healthcare or professional services as any of the following:

- (1) Physician assistant.
- (2) Hospital.
- (3) Nursing home.
- (4) Dentist.
- (5) Registered nurse.
- (6) Advanced practice registered nurse.
- (7) Licensed dietitian or nutritionist.
- (8) Licensed practical nurse.
- (9) Certified nurse assistant.
- (10) Offshore health service provider.
- (11) Ambulance service.
- (12) Licensed midwife.
- (13) Pharmacist.
- (14) Speech-language pathologist.
- (15) Audiologist.
- (16) Optometrist.
- (17) Podiatrist.

- (18) Chiropractor.
- (19) Physical therapist.
- (20) Occupational therapist.
- (21) Certified or licensed athletic trainer.
- (22) Psychologist.
- (23) Medical psychologist.
- (24) Social worker.
- (25) Licensed professional counselor.
- (26) Licensed perfusionist.
- (27) Licensed respiratory therapist.
- (28) Licensed radiologic technologist.
- (29) Licensed hearing aid dealer.
- (30) Licensed clinical laboratory scientist.

Proposed law adds behavioral health services providers licensed pursuant to present law to the list of personnel classified as healthcare providers for purposes of the La. Telehealth Access Act.

Present law, R.S. 37:1261 et seq., provides that telemedicine is a form of telehealth that may be practiced exclusively by licensed physicians. Proposed law retains present law.

(Amends R.S. 40:1223.3(3))