HLS 25RS-721 ORIGINAL

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 117

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BY REPRESENTATIVE ECHOLS

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

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

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 the medical reimbursement schedule; to require certain duties of the assistant 6 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 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

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or corporation who renders such care, services, or treatment or provides such drugs

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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 shall be reasonable when compared to the workers' compensation
7	reimbursement schedule of states that surround and have similar characteristics of
8	surrounding states. Any necessary adjustments to the reimbursement schedule
9	adopted and established in accordance with the provisions of this Section may shall
10	be made annually and supported by data and information provided in Paragraph (2)
11	of this Subsection. The assistant secretary shall promulgate the initial
12	reimbursement schedule, which shall be effective on January 1, 2026.
13	(2) The assistant secretary shall have the authority to collect the information
14	and data necessary to calculate the reimbursement schedule. do all of the following:
15	(a) Examine potential administrative and procedural relief for healthcare
16	providers to ensure expedited care and payment.
17	(b) Examine potential processes for paperwork reductions for healthcare
18	providers.
19	(c) Examine potential processes to expand medical markets for more access
20	to patient care.
21	(d) Include and consider any and all additional external stakeholders and
22	partners in calculating the reimbursement schedule.
23	(e) Collect information and data necessary to calculate the reimbursement
24	schedule. The collection of information and data shall be governed by the following
25	guidelines:
26	(a)(i) The assistant secretary shall create a written survey detailing the
27	information requested.
28	(b)(ii) The survey shall be managed by the office of workers' compensation
29	administration in conjunction with an academic institution.

or supplies to any person covered by this Chapter 10 of Title 23 of the Louisiana

1	(c)(iii) The information requested shall be based upon data at least six
2	months old.
3	(d)(iv) There shall be a minimum of thirty health care providers reporting
4	data upon which each disseminated statistic is based.
5	(e)(v) No individual health care provider's data shall represent more than
6	twenty-five percent on a weighted basis of each statistic.
7	(f)(vi) Any information disseminated shall be sufficiently aggregated such
8	that it will not allow recipients to identify the prices charged or compensation paid
9	by any particular health care provider.
10	* * *
11	(5) The office of workers' compensation administration shall report quarterly
12	to the House and Senate committees on labor and industrial relations regarding the
13	rate study and process and the committees shall have legislative oversight over the
14	process.
15	* * *

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 117 Original

2025 Regular Session

Echols

Abstract: Provides for the adoption of a medical fee reimbursement schedule for workers' compensation claims.

Present law provides that the assistant secretary of the office of workers' compensation administration (assistant secretary) shall establish and promulgate a reimbursement schedule for drugs, supplies, and certain care, services, and treatments that are lawfully recognized in this state and which are applicable to any person or corporation that renders these drugs, supplies, care, services, or treatments.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law provides that the reimbursement schedule shall include charges limited to the mean of the usual and customary charges for such care, services, treatment, drugs, and supplies. Present law further provides that any necessary adjustments to the reimbursement schedule may be made annually.

<u>Proposed law</u> instead requires that the reimbursement schedule shall be reasonable when compared to the workers' compensation reimbursement schedule of states that surround and have similar characteristics of surrounding states. Proposed law also requires that any

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necessary adjustments to the reimbursement schedule shall be made annually and supported by data and information provided for in present law and proposed law.

<u>Proposed law</u> requires the assistant secretary to promulgate the initial reimbursement schedule, which shall be effective on Jan. 1, 2026.

<u>Present law</u> provides that the assistant secretary shall have the authority to collect the information and data necessary to calculate the reimbursement schedule. <u>Present law</u> 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.

<u>Proposed law</u> 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))