

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1214

BY REPRESENTATIVE MILLER

HEALTH/LDH: Establishes the office of state health care facilities within the La. Dept. of Health and provides for the administration of certain state healthcare facilities

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 28:21, 25.1(B), 451.2 (introductory paragraph), (1), and
3 (9)(introductory paragraph), 451.4, and 451.6(A), R.S. 36:251(C)(1), 253,
4 254(B)(1)(a)(i), 257(A) and (C), and 258(A), (D), and (F), and R.S. 40:16.1(Section
5 Heading), to enact R.S. 36:253.1, 258(N), and 258.1, and to repeal R.S.
6 28:22.8(A)(2) and (3) and 451.2(9)(a) and (b), relative to the Louisiana Department
7 of Health; to create the office of state health care facilities within the Louisiana
8 Department of Health; to provide for the purposes, duties, and functions of the office
9 of state health care facilities; to provide for the administration of certain healthcare
10 facilities; to provide for the authority and duties of the secretary of the Louisiana
11 Department of Health; to provide for the authority and duties of the offices of the
12 Louisiana Department of Health; to provide for the of the executive office of the
13 secretary; to provide for an effective date; and to provide for related matters.

14 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

15 Section 1. R.S. 28:21, 25.1(B), 451.2(1) and (9)(introductory paragraph), 451.4, and
16 451.6(A) are hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

17 §21. State psychiatric hospitals

18 A. For purposes of this Part, "state psychiatric hospital" refers to the hospital
19 at Jackson, known as the Eastern Louisiana Mental Health System, and the hospital
20 at Pineville, known as the Central Louisiana State Hospital, which are designated as
21 the hospitals for persons who have a mental illness or a substance-related or

1 addictive disorder until such time as separate or other hospitals are established. The
2 ~~assistant secretary of the office of behavioral health of~~ office of state health care
3 facilities within the department may reorganize and consolidate the administration
4 of the hospitals or facilities.

5 B. The ~~assistant secretary of the office of behavioral health~~ office of state
6 health care facilities of ~~within~~ the department may establish inpatient or residential
7 settings as independent or satellite facilities to these hospitals from funds presently
8 allocated or to be allocated to these hospitals by the legislature.

9 C. Any site designated ~~under~~ in accordance with this Section shall comply
10 with any applicable local and state building or zoning ordinances and laws.

11 ~~D. Any site selected by the assistant secretary must be approved by the local~~
12 ~~governing authority.~~

13 * * *

14 §25.1. Establishment of Feliciana Forensic Facility; authorization to establish
15 forensic facilities in New Orleans, Baton Rouge, Shreveport, ~~and Alexandria~~
16 Alexandria, and surrounding areas

17 * * *

18 B. The department may establish additional forensic facilities for the
19 treatment of forensic patients in New Orleans, Baton Rouge, Shreveport, ~~and~~
20 ~~Alexandria~~ Alexandria, and surrounding areas as funds are appropriated by the
21 legislature.

22 * * *

23 §451.2. Definitions

24 As used in this Chapter, the following words, terms, and phrases ~~shall~~ have
25 the meaning ascribed to them in this Section, except when the context clearly
26 indicates a different meaning:

27 (1) "Administrative ~~units~~ unit" means ~~developmental centers and any other~~
28 a unit established under the administration and supervision of the office.

29 * * *

1 (9) "Developmental center" means ~~an administrative unit of the office under~~
2 ~~its administration, supervision, and control through which the office provides and~~
3 ~~develops developmental disabilities services and system capacity building efforts a~~
4 ~~state developmental facility operated and administered by the department through~~
5 ~~its office of state health care facilities. The office of state health care facilities will~~
6 ~~coordinate, as necessary, with the office for citizens with developmental disabilities~~
7 ~~to provide and develop developmental disabilities services. Developmental centers~~
8 ~~are responsible for: for planning and providing living options and other~~
9 ~~developmental disabilities services.~~

* * *

11 §451.4. State developmental centers; office ~~for citizens with developmental~~
12 ~~disabilities~~ of state health care facilities

13 A. The office of state health care facilities shall administer, supervise, and
14 be responsible for the operation of state developmental centers providing
15 developmental disabilities services.

16 B. Pinecrest Supports and Services Center is continued as an administrative
17 unit of ~~this~~ the office of state health care facilities.

18 C. Central Louisiana Supports and Services Center shall be an administrative
19 unit of ~~this~~ the office of state health care facilities.

20 D. The facility administrator of each center shall recommend to the
21 ~~executive director of the office of state health care facilities and~~ the secretary of the
22 Louisiana Department of Health policies and procedures necessary for the proper and
23 orderly operation of the facility. Such policies and procedures shall be consistent
24 with principles of this Chapter, office policies, and all applicable federal and state
25 laws and regulations. Policies and procedures developed pursuant to this Subsection
26 shall not be implemented until approved by the secretary.

* * *

1 §451.6. Assignment of property rights

2 A. By receiving services from and living in a licensed, state-operated,
3 twenty-four-hour residential facility provided by or through the ~~office~~ department,
4 the person shall be deemed to have made an assignment to the department of his
5 right, title, and interest in any property he owns, including interest in any trust or
6 succession, up to the cost of the services actually provided. The portion of property
7 and all assets which, pursuant to federal regulations or statute, the person may retain
8 and still maintain eligibility for coverage ~~under~~ in accordance with Title XIX of the
9 Social Security Act programs or successor programs shall be exempt from such
10 assignment.

11 * * *

12 Section 2. R.S. 36:251(C)(1), 253, 254(B)(1)(a)(i), 257(A) and (C), and 258(A), (D),
13 and (F) are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 36:253.1, 258(N), and 258.1 are hereby
14 enacted to read as follows:

15 §251. Louisiana Department of Health; creation; domicile; composition; purpose
16 and functions

17 * * *

18 C.(1) The Louisiana Department of Health shall be composed of the
19 executive office of the secretary, the office of the surgeon general, the office of
20 management and finance, the office of public health, the office of behavioral health,
21 the office for citizens with developmental disabilities, the office of aging and adult
22 services, the office on women's health and community health, the office of state
23 health care facilities, and such other offices as shall be created by law.

24 * * *

25 §253. Secretary of ~~health and hospitals~~ the Louisiana Department of Health

26 There shall be a secretary of ~~health and hospitals~~ the Louisiana Department
27 of Health, who shall be appointed by the governor with consent of the Senate and
28 who shall serve at the pleasure of the governor at a salary fixed by the governor,
29 which salary shall not exceed the amount approved for such position by the

1 legislature while in session. The secretary shall serve as the executive head and chief
2 administrative officer of the Louisiana Department of Health and shall have the
3 responsibility for the policies of the department, except as otherwise provided by this
4 Title, and for the administration, control, and operation of the functions, programs,
5 and affairs of the department; provided that the secretary shall perform his functions
6 under the general control and supervision of the governor.

7 §253.1. Executive office of the secretary; duties and functions

8 A. The secretary shall directly supervise, direct, and control the executive
9 office of the secretary and the office of state health care facilities.

10 B. The secretary shall determine the duties and functions of the executive
11 office of the secretary and the office of state health care facilities and shall control
12 and exercise all duties and functions.

13 §254. Powers and duties of the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health

14 * * *

15 B. The secretary shall have authority to:

16 (1)(a) Except as otherwise specifically provided in R.S. 36:801 and 803:

17 (i) Employ, appoint, remove, assign, and promote such personnel as is
18 necessary for the efficient administration of the executive office of the secretary and
19 the office of state health care facilities and the performance of ~~its~~ their powers,
20 duties, functions, and responsibilities and such other personnel, who are not assigned
21 to an office, as may be necessary for the efficient administration of the department
22 and for the performance of the responsibilities, powers, duties, and functions of
23 agencies transferred to it.

24 * * *

25 §257. Assistant secretaries

26 A. Each office within the Louisiana Department of Health, except the
27 executive office of the secretary, the office of management and finance, the office
28 of state health care facilities, and the office of the surgeon general, shall be under the
29 immediate supervision and direction of an assistant secretary, who shall be appointed

1 by the governor with consent of the Senate. Each shall serve at the pleasure of the
2 governor and shall be paid a salary which shall be fixed by the governor, which
3 salary shall not exceed the amount approved for such position by the legislature
4 while in session.

5 * * *

6 C. Except as otherwise provided in R.S. 36:801, each assistant secretary shall
7 employ, appoint, remove, assign, and promote such personnel as is necessary for the
8 efficient administration of his office and its programs and the performance of its
9 powers, duties, functions, and responsibilities, in accordance with applicable civil
10 service laws, rules, and regulations, and with policies and rules of the department,
11 all subject to budgetary control and applicable laws. In the event of an extended
12 absence or vacancy in the position of an assistant secretary, the secretary may act on
13 behalf or in lieu of the assistant secretary including as appointing authority for
14 personnel actions.

15 * * *

16 §258. Offices; purposes and functions

17 A. The purposes for which the offices, except for the executive office of the
18 secretary and the office of management and finance, of the Louisiana Department of
19 Health are created shall be set forth in this Section.

20 * * *

21 D. The office for citizens with developmental disabilities shall be responsible
22 for the programs and functions of the state relating to the care, training, treatment,
23 and education of persons with intellectual disabilities, persons with developmental
24 disabilities, and persons with autism. It shall ~~administer~~ coordinate as needed with
25 the office of state health care facilities regarding residential and day care facilities
26 of the state for persons with intellectual disabilities and persons with developmental
27 disabilities.

28 * * *

1 F. The office of aging and adult services shall be responsible for the
 2 programs and functions of the Louisiana Department of Health related to the
 3 long-term care of the elderly and the protection and long-term care of persons with
 4 adult onset disabilities. It shall administer ~~the residential state-operated nursing~~
 5 ~~homes, the Villa Feliciana Medical Complex,~~ the protection services program of
 6 adults from ages eighteen to fifty-nine, the department's long-term support and
 7 services programs, the State Personal Assistance Services program, the Community
 8 and Family Support Program, the Traumatic Brain and Spinal Cord Injury Trust
 9 Fund, as well as other related programs within the department.

10 * * *

11 (N) The office of state health care facilities shall be responsible for leading
 12 and coordinating efforts with the Louisiana Department of Health to administer the
 13 operation of state health care facilities provided for in R.S. 36:258.1. The office of
 14 state health care facilities shall be responsible for compliance with state and federal
 15 regulations and requirements state health care facilities under its administration.

16 §258.1 Office of state health care facilities

17 A. The Louisiana Department of Health, office of state health care facilities
 18 shall administer and coordinate all of the following facilities:

19 (1) The state psychiatric hospital in Jackson, Louisiana, known as Eastern
 20 Louisiana Mental Health System, in accordance with R.S. 28:21.

21 (2) The state psychiatric hospital in Pineville, Louisiana, known as Central
 22 Louisiana State Hospital, in accordance with R.S. 28:21.

23 (3) The state forensic hospital in Jackson, Louisiana, known as Feliciana
 24 Forensic Facility, in accordance with R.S. 28:25.1.

25 (4) The geriatric hospital, including its skilled nursing facility unit, at
 26 Jackson, Louisiana, known as Villa Feliciana Medical Complex, in accordance with
 27 R.S. 28:22.7.

1 Section 3 of Act No. 384 of the 2013 Regular Session of the Legislature when Section 1 of
2 Act No. 384 of the 2013 Regular Session of the Legislature becomes effective.

3 Section 7. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not
4 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature
5 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If
6 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become
7 effective on the day following such approval.

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 1214 Original

2026 Regular Session

Miller

Abstract: Establishes the office of state health care facilities within the La. Dept. of Health and provides for the administration of certain state healthcare facilities.

The Office of State Health Care Facilities

Proposed law establishes the office of state health care facilities (OSHCF) within the La. Dept. of Health (LDH).

Proposed law provides that OSHCF is responsible for leading and coordinating LDH in the operation of state healthcare facilities.

Proposed law provides that OSHCF shall administer and coordinate all of the following healthcare facilities:

- (1) Eastern Louisiana Mental Health System.
- (2) Central Louisiana State Hospital.
- (3) Feliciana Forensic Facility.
- (4) Villa Feliciana Medical Complex.
- (5) Pinecrest Supports and Services Center.
- (6) Central Louisiana Supports and Services Center.
- (7) Any other licensed state healthcare facility upon appropriation by the legislature.

Proposed law provides that LDH shall employ an executive director of OSHF.

Proposed law establishes that each administrator or chief executive officer of a facility under the authority of OSHF shall report directly to the executive director of OSHF.

Proposed law provides that OSHF may establish and administer additional state healthcare facilities subject to funding by the legislature.

Psychiatric Hospitals

Present law provides that the office of behavioral health, within LDH, may oversee the operation of Eastern Louisiana Mental Health System and Central Louisiana State Hospital. Present law further provides that the office of behavioral health may establish residential facilities as satellite facilities to such health system or hospital with funds allocated to the hospitals by the legislature.

Proposed law transfers the responsibilities of present law to OSHCF and provides that OSHCF may open independent facilities.

Present law provides that the site of a satellite facility selected by the assistant secretary of the office of behavioral health must be approved by the local governing authority.

Proposed law repeals present law.

Present law provides that LDH may establish additional forensic facilities, for the treatment of patients deemed incompetent to stand trial or were otherwise incarcerated, in New Orleans, Baton Rouge, Shreveport, and Alexandria.

Proposed law adds that additional forensic facilities may be established in areas surrounding the locations provided for in present law.

Facilities for Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

Present law provides that facilities, known as "developmental centers" for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities shall be operated and administered by the office of citizens with developmental disabilities.

Present law establishes that LDH shall operate the following developmental centers:

- (1) Pinecrest Supports and Services Center.
- (2) Northwest Supports and Services Center.
- (3) North Lake Supports and Services Center.
- (4) Central Louisiana Supports and Services Center.

Proposed law removes Northwest Supports and Services Center and North Lake Supports and Services Center.

Proposed law provides that OSHCF shall operate and administer the Pinecrest Supports and Services Center and Central Louisiana Supports and Services center with the support of the office of citizens with developmental disabilities.

Present law provides that the facility administrators of each developmental center shall recommend policies and procedures to the secretary of LDH for the operation of the center.

Proposed law modifies present law providing that the facility administrator shall recommend policies and procedures to the executive director of OSHCF.

Present law provides that by receiving services from and living in a licensed, state-operated, 24-hour residential facility operated by or through the office of citizens with developmental disabilities the person shall be deemed to have made an assignment to any property owned to the office up to the cost of services.

Proposed law modifies present law providing that LDH shall receive the assignment of property.

Miscellaneous

Proposed law provides that the secretary shall directly control the executive office of the secretary and OSHCF.

Proposed law provides that in the event of an extended absence or vacancy in the position of an assistant secretary at LDH, the secretary has the authority to act on behalf or in lieu of the assistant secretary including as appointing authority for personnel actions.

Present law provides that the office of aging and adult services shall administer state-operated nursing homes and Villa Feliciana Medical Complex.

Proposed law repeals present law.

Proposed law provides that LDH may transfer funding and positions from within the department to establish and implement the provisions of proposed law.

Effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 28:21, 25.1(B), 451.2 (intro. para.), (1), and (9)(intro. para), 451.4, and 451.6(A), R.S. 36:251(C)(1), 253, 254(B)(1)(a)(i), 257(A) and (C), and 258(A), (D), and (F), and R.S. 40:16.1(Section Heading); Adds R.S. 36:253.1, 258(N), and 258.1; Repeals R.S. 28:22.8(A)(2) and (3) and 451.2(9)(a) and (b))