

2020 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 152

BY REPRESENTATIVES BROWN, BAGLEY, STAGNI, ADAMS, ROBBY CARTER,  
CORMIER, COX, EDMONSTON, FREEMAN, AND WILLARD

INSURANCE/HEALTH: Provides for insurance coverage for acupuncture

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 22:1057, relative to insurance coverage for acupuncture; to require coverage  
3 for acupuncture performed by a licensed acupuncturist; to prohibit discriminatory  
4 terminology; to define key terms; to provide for applicability; to provide for an  
5 effective date; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 22:1057 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

8 §1057. Acupuncture; reimbursement

9 A.(1)(a) Any health coverage plan delivered or issued for delivery in this  
10 state in the large group market, as defined in R.S. 22:1091(B), shall provide coverage  
11 for any acupuncture performed by an individual licensed pursuant to R.S. 37:1356  
12 et seq., when such services are medically necessary and not otherwise excluded from  
13 coverage.

14 (b) Terminology in a policy or contract deemed discriminatory against any  
15 person or method of practice, including but not limited to the manner of payment or  
16 reimbursement under the policy, shall be null and void.

17 (2) The coverage provided pursuant to this Section may be subject to annual  
18 deductibles, coinsurance, and copayment provisions as are consistent with those  
19 established under the health coverage plan.

1           (3) The coverage provided pursuant to this Section may be limited to twelve  
2           visits for acupuncture treatment per policy or contract benefit period.

3           B. For purposes of this Section, "health coverage plan" means any hospital,  
4           health, or medical expense insurance policy, hospital or medical service contract,  
5           employee welfare benefit plan, contract, or other agreement with a health  
6           maintenance organization or a preferred provider organization, health and accident  
7           insurance policy, or any other insurance contract of this type in this state, including  
8           a group insurance plan, a self-insurance plan, and the Office of Group Benefits  
9           programs. "Health coverage plan" shall not include a plan providing coverage for  
10           excepted benefits as defined in R.S. 22:1061, limited benefit health insurance plans,  
11           and short-term policies that have a term of less than twelve months.

12           Section 2.(A) This Act shall become effective on January 1, 2021.

13           (B) This Act shall apply to any new policy, contract, program, or health coverage  
14           plan issued on and after January 1, 2021. Any policy, contract, or health coverage plan in  
15           effect prior to January 1, 2021, shall convert to conform to the provisions of this Act on or  
16           before the renewal date, but no later than January 1, 2022.

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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)]

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HB 152 Reengrossed

2020 Regular Session

Brown

**Abstract:** Requires insurance coverage for acupuncture performed by a licensed acupuncturist.

Proposed law requires any health coverage plan in the large market group, delivered or issued for delivery in this state, to provide coverage for acupuncture performed by an individual licensed by law, when the service is medically necessary and not otherwise excluded from coverage.

Proposed law prohibits terminology in a policy or contract deemed discriminatory against any person or method of practice, including but not limited to the manner of payment or reimbursement under the policy.

Proposed law provides that required coverage may be subject to annual deductibles, coinsurance, and copayment provisions as are consistent with those established under the health coverage plan.

Proposed law provides that coverage for acupuncture treatment may be limited to 12 annual visits per policy or contract.

Proposed law applies to any new policy, contract, program, or health coverage plan issued on and after Jan. 1, 2021. Any policy, contract, or health coverage plan in effect prior to Jan. 1, 2021, shall convert to conform to the provisions of proposed law on or before the renewal date, but no later than Jan. 1, 2022.

Effective Jan. 1, 2021.

(Adds R.S. 22:1057)

#### Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Insurance to the original bill:

1. Specify that the health coverage plan referenced in proposed law means the "large group market" as defined in present law, (R.S. 22:1091(B)), and require the coverage of acupuncture when medically necessary and not otherwise excluded from coverage.
2. Provide that coverage for acupuncture treatment may be limited to 12 annual visits per policy or contract.
3. Change the effective date relative to policy, contract, or health coverage plan renewals from Jan. 1, 2021 to Jan. 1, 2022.
4. Make technical changes.