

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 578

BY REPRESENTATIVE GLOVER

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

HEALTH/SMOKING: Provides relative to a smoking cessation benefits program

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 40:1295, relative to a smoking cessation benefits program; to establish and
3 promote a program to assist with smoking cessation; to provide for healthcare
4 coverage for smoking cessation benefits; to provide for the promulgation of rules and
5 regulations; to provide for definitions; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 40:1295 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

8 §1295. Smoking cessation benefits program; coverage

9 A. For the purposes of this Section, the following terms have the following
10 meanings:

11 (1) "Department" means the Louisiana Department of Health.

12 (2) "Smoking cessation benefits" means the smoking cessation treatments
13 and services, including individual counseling, group counseling, nicotine patches,
14 nicotine gum, nicotine lozenges, nicotine nasal spray, nicotine inhaler, bupropion,
15 and varenicline.

16 B.(1) All private insurance plans and Medicaid shall provide coverage for
17 comprehensive smoking cessation benefits to any resident of this state for a period
18 of three months if a licensed physician recommends and certifies that the smoking
19 cessation benefits may help the resident to quit smoking.

1 (2) The smoking cessation benefits coverage required by this Subsection
2 shall not be subject to any co-payments, deductibles, or other cost-sharing
3 mechanisms.

4 C. The department shall promulgate and enforce such rules, regulations, and
5 minimum standards as needed to carry out the provisions of this Section.

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 578 Engrossed

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Abstract: Establishes a program to encourage and assist the public to quit smoking.

Proposed law provides that individuals may receive any of the smoking cessation benefits for a three-month period with all costs paid by private insurance, or Medicaid, if applicable. Smoking cessation benefits include but are not limited to nicotine patches, nicotine lozenges, and prescription drugs.

Proposed law directs the La. Department of Health to promulgate rules and regulations necessary to enforce the provisions of proposed law.

Proposed law provides for definitions.

(Adds R.S. 40:1295)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Health and Welfare to the original bill:

1. Remove the requirement that the La. Department of Health develop and implement a public awareness campaign.
2. Make technical changes.