

## RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 281 (HB 578)

2023 Regular Session

Glover

New law requires any health coverage plan delivered or issued for delivery in this state to provide smoking cessation benefits for a minimum of six months if a physician recommends and certifies that smoking cessation benefits may help the person quit smoking.

New law further requires that coverage for smoking cessation benefits not be subject to annual deductibles, coinsurance, copayment, or any other out-of-pocket or cost-sharing expense provisions.

New law provides that patients utilizing a medical assistance program may receive any of the smoking cessation benefits if a physician recommends and certifies that smoking cessation benefits may help the person quit smoking.

New law directs the La. Dept. of Health to promulgate rules and regulations necessary to enforce the provisions of new law.

New law requires any policy, contract, program, or health coverage plan in existence prior to Jan. 1, 2024 to offer smoking cessation benefits by Jan. 1, 2025.

New law requires any policy, contract, program, or health coverage plan issued on or after Jan. 1, 2024 to offer smoking cessation benefits.

New law defines terms including "health coverage plan", "medical assistance program", and "smoking cessation benefits".

Effective August 1, 2023.

(Adds R.S. 22:1041.1 and R.S. 40:1295)