

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 489

BY REPRESENTATIVE HUGHES

MEDICAID: Provides relative to Medicaid services for maternal and infant health

1 AN ACT

2 To enact Part V of Chapter 8 of Title 46 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, to be  
3 comprised of R.S. 46:977.32 and 977.33, relative to the medical assistance program  
4 of this state known as Medicaid; to provide for legislative findings; to provide for a  
5 declaration; to provide insurance coverage for dietician and nutrition support without  
6 a diagnosis of gestational diabetes; to provide coverage for breast pumps for mothers  
7 in the neonatal intensive care unit; to fund remote patient monitoring programs for  
8 pregnant and postpartum women in lieu of services; to require the Louisiana  
9 Department of Health to submit state plan amendments; and to provide for related  
10 matters.

11 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

12 Section 1. Part V of Chapter 8 of Title 46 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950,  
13 comprised of R.S. 46:977.32 and 977.33, is hereby enacted to read as follows:

14 PART V. MEDICAID COVERAGE FOR MATERNAL AND INFANT HEALTH

15 §977.32. Legislative findings; declaration

16 A. The legislature hereby finds and declares that Louisiana has the nation's  
17 highest maternal death rate and the nation's second highest infant death rate.

18 B. Louisiana has one of the nation's highest preterm birth rates yielding  
19 special needs for mothers and babies in the neonatal intensive care units to  
20 successfully lactate and provide lifesaving human milk to critically ill infants.

1           C. Access to critical nutrition education services and lactation support  
2           equipment can provide lifesaving resources for mothers and babies.

3           D. Improving access to key nutritional services early in pregnancy can help  
4           mothers manage and prevent chronic health conditions that can harm a pregnancy or  
5           result in death.

6           E. Providing access to double electric breast pumps for mothers in a timely  
7           manner can increase mothers' chances of breastfeeding success and improve health  
8           outcomes for infants.

9           F. Additionally, remote patient monitoring is an innovative resource that can  
10          provide lifesaving services for mothers and infants and increase access to medical  
11          care, especially in rural areas and areas deemed as maternity care deserts.

12          §977.33. Medicaid coverage; duties of the department

13          A. The Louisiana Department of Health shall revise Medicaid coverage as  
14          necessary in accordance with Subsection B of this Section. Such revisions shall  
15          include but not be limited to all of the following:

16                 (1) Providing insurance coverage for dietician and nutrition consultation  
17                 support at the referral of the medical provider without the requirement of a diagnosis  
18                 of gestational diabetes.

19                 (2) Providing insurance coverage for hospital-grade breast pumps for  
20                 mothers who have been admitted into the neonatal intensive care unit.

21                 (3) Providing coverage for double electric breast pumps beginning at twenty  
22                 weeks gestation.

23                 (4) Funding remote patient monitoring programs for pregnant and  
24                 postpartum women, which includes Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) codes  
25                 99453, 99454, and 99199, currently in lieu of services.

26          B. The Louisiana Medicaid program shall cover inpatient and, if deemed  
27          appropriate, outpatient coverage for maternal or infant healthcare services when such  
28          healthcare services are used for a medically accepted indication and administered in  
29          any healthcare facility by any healthcare professional appropriately licensed in this

1 state to provide such healthcare services in accordance with state and federal  
2 guidelines or certifications.

3 C. Pursuant to this Section, the secretary of the Louisiana Department of  
4 Health shall do all of the following:

5 (1) Submit to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services all necessary  
6 state plan amendments.

7 (2) Promulgate all necessary rules and regulations in accordance with the  
8 Administrative Procedure Act.

9 (3) Take any other actions necessary to implement the provisions of this  
10 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 489 Engrossed

2024 Regular Session

Hughes

**Abstract:** Provides Medicaid coverage for dietician and nutrition support and certain types of breast pumps and funding for remote patient monitoring programs for pregnant and postpartum women.

Proposed law declares that the state of Louisiana has the nation's highest maternal death rate and the nation's second highest infant death rate. Proposed law further provides for legislative findings.

Proposed law requires the La. Dept. of Health (LDH) to revise Medicaid coverage as necessary to implement proposed law. Proposed law further provides that such revisions shall include but not be limited to all of the following:

- (1) Providing insurance coverage for dietician and nutrition consultation support at the referral of the medical provider without a requirement of a diagnosis of gestational diabetes.
- (2) Providing insurance coverage for hospital-grade breast pumps for mothers who have been admitted into the neonatal intensive care unit.
- (3) Providing coverage for double electric breast pumps beginning at 20 weeks gestation.
- (4) Funding remote patient monitoring programs for pregnant and postpartum women.

Proposed law requires the Medicaid program in this state to cover inpatient and, if deemed appropriate, outpatient coverage for maternal or infant healthcare services when such care or treatment, is used for a medically accepted indication, and administered in any healthcare facility by any healthcare professional appropriately licensed in this state to provide such healthcare services in accordance with state and federal provisions.

Proposed law establishes certain requirements for the secretary of LDH in compliance with proposed law.

(Adds R.S. 46:977.32 and 977.33)

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 for a healthcare facility to determine a prospective enrollee's eligibility for coverage.
2. Make technical corrections.