

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 105

BY REPRESENTATIVE FREIBERG

HEALTH: Urges the Louisiana Department of Health and health insurers to increase reimbursement for Behavioral Health Crisis Centers

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health and Louisiana commercial health
3 insurance payors to increase reimbursement rates for Behavioral Health Crisis
4 Centers (BHCCs) operating under a Crisis Receiving Center (CRC) license.

5 WHEREAS, the Louisiana Crisis Response System (LA-CRS) was established in
6 2022 as a statewide mental health crisis response system aligned with the Substance Abuse
7 and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) guidelines; and

8 WHEREAS, the goals of the LA-CRS are to support individuals with mental illness
9 who have been living in nursing facilities transition back into the community; reduce
10 emergency room utilization; and decrease law enforcement and justice system involvement
11 in the care of individuals with mental illness; and

12 WHEREAS, the Louisiana Office of Behavioral Health (OBH) included in its final
13 design for its crisis system of care four key services, including Mobile Crisis Response,
14 Community Brief Crisis Support, Behavioral Health Crisis Centers, and Crisis Stabilization;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, Behavioral Health Crisis Centers are walk-in facilities that offer
17 short-term crisis intervention services, which include twenty-three-hour care designed to
18 stabilize individuals in crisis;

19 WHEREAS, under the Louisiana Department of Health's licensing framework,
20 BHCCs may obtain either a Behavioral Health Service (BHS) Provider license or a Crisis
21 Receiving Center (CRC) license; and

1 WHEREAS, facilities licensed as Crisis Receiving Centers are the only facilities
2 authorized and staffed to offer both short-term, twenty-three-hour crisis stabilization services
3 (Behavioral Health Crisis Centers) and longer-term, three through seven-day crisis care (CS)
4 at the same location for individuals requiring further stabilization; and

5 WHEREAS, the Louisiana Medicaid fee schedule has distinct reimbursement rates
6 for behavioral health crisis care performed with a Behavioral Health Service license versus
7 a Crisis Receiving Center license in accordance with the different levels of staffing required;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, Medicaid reimbursement rates for Behavioral Health Crisis Centers
10 providers operating under a Crisis Receiving Center license are inadequate to cover the cost
11 of the twenty-four-hour staffing model required by the Louisiana Department of Health and
12 the additional staffing required to care for higher-acuity patients served by BHCC-CRCs;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, an independent, third-party rate analysis shows the total per diem cost
15 for a Crisis Receiving Center -licensed Behavioral Health Crisis Center to provide the first
16 twenty-three hours of care in compliance with state and federal regulatory staffing
17 requirements is one thousand one hundred sixty-three dollars, which includes costs for
18 clinicians, nurses, licensed prescribers, peer support specialists, and behavioral health
19 technicians; and

20 WHEREAS, the current Louisiana Medicaid per diem reimbursement rate for a Crisis
21 Receiving Center -licensed Behavioral Health Crisis Center is five hundred forty-nine
22 dollars and forty cents; and

23 WHEREAS, as a result of inadequate Medicaid reimbursement rates for Crisis
24 Receiving Center-licensed Behavioral Health Crisis Centers, there is currently only one
25 provider of this type throughout Louisiana; and

26 WHEREAS, other Crisis Receiving Centers have attempted to open in other regions
27 of the state but have been unable to open or remain viable due to inadequate Medicaid
28 reimbursement rates.

29 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
30 urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health and Louisiana commercial health

1 insurance payors to increase reimbursement rates to more accurately reflect the cost of
2 providing crisis stabilization services at Behavioral Health Crisis Centers operating under
3 a Crisis Receiving Center license.

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
5 secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health and the president of the Louisiana
6 Association of Health Plans.

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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Requests the La. Dept. of Health and commercial health insurance payors to increase payments for crisis centers so that the centers can operate more sustainably and expand access to mental health care.