

HOUSE SUMMARY OF SENATE AMENDMENTS

HB 971

2026 Regular Session

Stagni

MEDICAID: Provides relative to Medicaid reimbursement for rural health clinics

Synopsis of Senate Amendments

1. Adds facility need review for types one and two rural health clinics.
2. Provides that the La. Dept. of Health shall increase the encounter rate for independent rural health clinics.
3. Provides that the provisions of proposed law are subject to approval by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.
4. Adds that the La. Dept. of Health shall submit a monthly report to the legislature that provides for number of encounters per month for each type one rural health clinic.

Digest of Bill as Finally Passed by Senate

Present law defines a rural health clinic as a facility that provides primary healthcare services to outpatients located in an area that is not an urbanized area as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau.

Proposed law requires the secretary of the La. Dept. of Health (LDH) to take all necessary actions to equalize Medicaid reimbursement rates between independent rural health clinics and provider-based rural health clinics.

Present law requires the LDH to administer a facility need review process to determine whether a public need exists for additional healthcare facilities. Present law further provides that certain healthcare facilities must demonstrate such a public need before LDH will issue a license for the facility.

Proposed law adds types one and two rural health clinics to the list of healthcare facilities required to undergo facility need review prior to the issuance of a license for operation.

Proposed law provides for an increase in the encounter rate for independent rural health clinics for fiscal years 2026-2027 and 2028-2029 subject to approval by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

Proposed law requires LDH to submit a monthly report to the legislature providing the number encounters and monthly expenditures for each type one rural health clinic.

Proposed law requires LDH to take any necessary action to implement the provisions of proposed law not later than 90 days after the effective date of proposed law including filing a Medicaid state plan amendment or promulgating and adopting rules.

Effective upon appropriation of funds by the legislature.

Effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Adds R.S. 40:2116(B)(8) and 2197.1)