

HOUSE SUMMARY OF SENATE AMENDMENTS**HB 198****2026 Regular Session****Echols**

HEALTH: Provides relative to Medicaid reimbursement of ambulatory surgical centers for certain procedures

Synopsis of Senate Amendments

1. Tasks the La. Dept. of Health (LDH) with developing a plan to increase the reimbursement rates for gastroenterology, ophthalmology, dental, and otolaryngology procedures.
2. Requires LDH to include applicable billing codes and estimated implementation costs in the plan and to submit the plan to the House and Senate committees on health and welfare, the House Committee on Appropriations, and the Senate Committee on Finance by October 1, 2026.

Digest of Bill as Finally Passed by Senate

Proposed law requires the secretary of the La. Dept. of Health (LDH) to take all necessary actions to implement a plan to reimburse ambulatory surgery centers described by proposed law.

Proposed law provides that gastroenterology, otolaryngology (ear, nose, and throat), dental, and ophthalmology procedures performed at an ambulatory surgery center shall be reimbursed by Medicaid at a rate equal to the rate paid in an outpatient hospital setting or 100% of the Medicare rate, whichever is less.

Proposed law requires LDH to include applicable billing codes and estimated implementation costs in the plan and to submit the plan to the House and Senate committees on health and welfare, the House Committee on Appropriations, and the Senate Committee on Finance by October 1, 2026.

Proposed law requires LDH to promulgate all necessary rules and regulations to implement proposed law.

Proposed law directs LDH to implement proposed law by Oct. 1, 2026.

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

(Adds R.S. 46:452)