

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE BILL NO. 668

BY REPRESENTATIVE SIMON

HEALTH/HOME CARE: Provides for electronic visit verification for long-term care services delivered in home- and community-based settings

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 40:1300.324, relative to in-home care services; to provide for requirements
3 of the Department of Health and Hospitals relative to health service program
4 administration; to provide for in-home care service programs; to provide a definition
5 for electronic visit verification system; to provide a conditional requirement for
6 implementing such a system; to provide findings relative to quality of care and cost
7 savings; to provide for a definition; to provide for promulgation of rules; and to
8 provide for related matters.

9 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

10 Section 1. R.S. 40:1300.324 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

11 §1300.324. Electronic visit verification system; implementation; conditions

12 A. For purposes of this Section, "electronic visit verification system" means
13 an automated point-of-service verification system which electronically verifies that
14 service visits occur and documents the points in time when service provision begins
15 and ends.

16 B. The legislature hereby finds that due to the significant potential of
17 electronic visit verification systems for improving care quality and containing
18 medical assistance program costs, notably through prevention of fraud, abuse, and
19 billing errors, the implementation of such systems in home- and community-based

1 long-term care and other in-home service care programs is in the best interest of this
2 state.

3 C. To the maximum extent practicable, and subject to the conditions
4 provided in Subsection D of this Section, the department shall implement an
5 electronic visit verification system for all in-home care services that it funds through
6 medical assistance programs.

7 D.(1) If the conditions of Paragraph (3) of this Subsection are satisfied, then
8 the department shall promulgate such rules in accordance with the Administrative
9 Procedure Act as are necessary to ensure optimal functioning of the electronic visit
10 verification system.

11 (2) The department may provide rate enhancements and other financial
12 incentives to providers of long-term care services to facilitate timely and effective
13 implementation of the electronic visit verification system.

14 (3) The department may implement an electronic visit verification system
15 only if the fiscal impact thereof is reasonably expected to be cost-neutral or result in
16 cost savings.

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)]

Simon

HB No. 668

Abstract: Provides for establishment of an electronic visit verification system for in-home care services funded by DHH.

Proposed law defines "electronic visit verification system" as an automated point of service verification system which electronically verifies that service visits occur and documents the points in time when service provision begins and ends.

Proposed law provides a legislative finding that due to the significant potential of electronic visit verification systems for improving care quality and containing medical assistance program costs, notably through prevention of fraud, abuse, and billing errors, the implementation of such systems in home-based care programs is in the best interest of this state.

Proposed law provides that, to the maximum extent practicable, and subject to certain conditions of proposed law, the Dept. of Health and Hospitals (DHH) shall implement an electronic visit verification system for all in-home care services that it funds through medical assistance programs (e.g. Medicaid). Provides that, contingent upon cost-neutrality or cost

savings of implementation, DHH shall promulgate such rules in accordance with the APA as are necessary to ensure optimal functioning of the electronic visit verification system.

Proposed law authorizes DHH to provide rate enhancements and other financial incentives to providers of long-term care services to facilitate timely and effective implementation of the electronic visit verification system.

Proposed law stipulates that DHH shall implement an electronic visit verification system only if the fiscal impact thereof is reasonably expected to be cost neutral or result in cost savings.

(Adds R.S. 40:1300.324)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Health and Welfare to the original bill.

1. Changed all occurrences of "long-term care" to "in-home care".
2. Changed the term for a technological system referenced from "integrated telephonic and computer-based system" to "automated point of service verification system".
3. In findings regarding improvements expected to result from implementing an electronic visit verification system, added prevention of billing errors.
4. Deleted provision requiring that rules establishing an electronic visit verification system provide for functional capacity, billing integration, data sharing, data storage and security, electronic reporting, and disaster recovery plans as features of the system.
5. Made technical changes.

House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill.

1. Made change necessary for internal consistency in provisions relative to rulemaking authority.