
The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Thomas F. Wade.

DIGEST

Proposed law enacts the Rural Hospital Information Technology Loan Fund Act. Authorizes the secretary of DHH to enter into a cooperative endeavor agreement with the Rural Hospital Coalition, Inc., to facilitate access to funding for the acquisition and implementation of certified electronic health records technology by rural hospitals and to provide for the expansion and administration of Louisiana Rural Health Information Exchange and other related matters. Requires the secretary to consult with the Health Care Quality Forum in implementing proposed law.

Further authorizes the secretary of DHH to establish the Rural Hospital Information Technology Loan Fund. Allows the secretary to utilize such sums that are made available through annual appropriations, a public-private partnership involving financial institutions, and any other method authorized by law. To the extent provided by law, the debt service associated with loans made to rural hospitals shall be serviced from funds received by rural hospitals as enhanced reimbursement under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

Effective August 15, 2009.

(Adds R.S. 40:1299.96.11 through 1299.96.14)