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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Senate Legislative Services. The keyword, summary, 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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SB 222 Engrossed

DIGEST  
2026 Regular Session

Pressly

Proposed law prohibits the La. Dept. of Health (LDH) and any managed care entity administering Medicaid behavioral health services from requiring pre-employment reference letters as a condition of provider enrollment, staff credentialing, or the delivery of services.

Proposed law prohibits LDH and any managed care entity administering Medicaid behavioral health services from requiring CPR or first aid certification for behavioral health staff as a condition of provider enrollment, staff credentialing, or reimbursement, except in settings where the training is required by federal law, state law, or licensing requirements for certain facilities.

Proposed law provides that supervision required for behavioral health staff who are provisionally licensed or otherwise under supervision pursuant to the requirements of a La. licensing board shall satisfy LDH's program supervision requirements when such supervision meets or exceeds applicable program standards.

Proposed law requires LDH to revise Medicaid behavioral health provider documentation requirements to align with federal guidance stating that documentation shall be completed during the service or as soon as practicable after the service is provided pursuant to timelines and reasonable exceptions established by LDH.

Proposed law requires that when documentation is completed outside the general standard, the provider must include a late-entry attestation stating the date of entry and the reason for the delay.

Proposed law provides that when a Medicaid behavioral health provider is required by rule to maintain a nurse on staff or to maintain a written agreement for nursing services solely for the purpose of medication administration, the requirement is satisfied by the presence of a licensed physician, psychiatrist, or physician assistant acting within the lawful scope of practice.

Proposed law provides that physician assistants may serve as medical director for a Medicaid behavioral health provider in addition to physicians, advanced practice registered nurses, and medical psychologists as currently authorized by LDH's Medicaid services manual.

Proposed law requires LDH to submit to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), no later than July 1, 2026, any necessary state plan amendment, waiver, or other request to authorize reimbursement for psychosocial rehabilitation services delivered via telehealth and to notify the committees on health and welfare of the submission and response from CMS.

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

(Adds R.S. 28:301-308)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

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

1. Adds provisions from LDH's Medicaid services manual regarding requirements for medical directors for Medicaid behavioral health providers.