

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 297

BY REPRESENTATIVE JACKSON

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health to promulgate rules to create an exception to facility need review procedures for behavioral health service providers that offer psychosocial rehabilitation or community psychiatric support if the providers meet certain requirements.

WHEREAS, according to the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), more than forty-seven percent of adults in Louisiana report symptoms of anxiety or depression; and

WHEREAS, according to NAMI, over one hundred eighty thousand people in Louisiana have a serious mental illness; and

WHEREAS, according to NAMI, of the nearly two hundred thousand adults in Louisiana who did not receive needed mental health care, more than forty percent did not because of the cost of care; and

WHEREAS, according to a community needs assessment conducted by the Acadiana Human Services District of the residents of Acadia, Evangeline, Iberia, Lafayette, St. Landry, St. Martin, and Vermilion parishes, more than one thousand seven hundred children had a substance abuse disorder, and, of that group, over one thousand five hundred children did not receive treatment; and

WHEREAS, according to the United States Government Accountability Office, from 2013 through 2020, many rural hospitals and healthcare provider's offices have closed their doors, thus increasing the distance between people living in rural areas and access to common healthcare services; and

WHEREAS, in recent years, Louisiana has made efforts to decrease the barriers to accessing mental health services by supporting telehealth and increasing broadband access to people living in rural areas; and

WHEREAS, facility need review and similar policies that restrict healthcare providers and professionals from expanding care into rural areas inhibit efforts to increase access to health care.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) to promulgate rules to create an exception to facility need review procedures for behavioral health service providers that offer psychosocial rehabilitation or community psychiatric support if the providers meet all of the following requirements:

(1) The behavioral health service provider was licensed as a behavioral health service provider by LDH on or before January 1, 2024.

(2) The behavioral health service provider is seeking to add psychosocial rehabilitation services or community psychiatric support and treatment services to be offered in the provider's licensed service area.

(3) The behavioral health service provider is not operating under a provisional license issued by LDH.

(4) The behavioral health service provider is not subject to a current license suspension, license revocation, or license nonrenewal action.

(5) The behavioral health service provider is not under a current settlement agreement with LDH.

(6) The behavioral health service provider has not been cited for any immediate jeopardy deficiencies or repeat deficiencies by LDH in the last two years.

(7) The behavioral health service provider has not been issued any sanctions for immediate jeopardy deficiencies or repeat deficiencies by LDH in the last two years.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Department of Health shall provide an update on rule promulgation in the form of a written report to the House Committee on Health and Welfare on or before November 1, 2024.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES