

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 218

BY REPRESENTATIVE ECHOLS

MEDICAID: Requests the Louisiana Department of Health to coordinate with stakeholders to develop a healthcare plan for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health to develop and implement an
3 institutional special needs plan to serve individuals with intellectual and
4 developmental disabilities.

5 WHEREAS, individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities face
6 complex medical, behavioral, and social challenges that require highly coordinated and
7 specialized care; and

8 WHEREAS, many individuals in this state are dually eligible for Medicare and
9 Medicaid and reside in intermediate care facilities for individuals with intellectual
10 disabilities, group homes, or receive services through home- and community-based services
11 under Medicaid waivers; and

12 WHEREAS, these individuals often experience fragmented care, high rates of
13 hospitalization, and limited access to preventive services, contributing to poor health
14 outcomes and inefficient use of public resources; and

15 WHEREAS, individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities would
16 benefit from a specialized institutional special needs plan (I-SNP) integrating both Medicare
17 and Medicaid benefits under a unified care model; and

18 WHEREAS, the I-SNP would be operated by a coordinated care organization in
19 partnership with the ARC of Louisiana, managed care entities, and a Medicare Advantage
20 Organization ensuring oversight and community engagement; and

1 WHEREAS, the plan includes comprehensive medical and behavioral health
2 services, long-term services and supports, rehabilitation therapies, vocational and
3 employment assistance, and intensive care coordination; and

4 WHEREAS, the plan prioritizes innovations such as integrated electronic health
5 records, mobile health teams, housing navigation, respite care, enhanced dental and vision
6 benefits, and nutrition and wellness programs; and

7 WHEREAS, quality and accountability would be ensured through value-based
8 payment models, outcome-focused metrics, independent oversight boards, and member
9 satisfaction surveys tailored to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, implementation would occur through a phased rollout beginning in
12 high-need parishes with eventual statewide expansion, guided by partnerships with
13 stakeholders and supported by federal waiver flexibility through the Centers for Medicare
14 and Medicaid Services; and

15 WHEREAS, successful implementation of such a plan would lead to improved health
16 outcomes, increased independence and employment among individuals with intellectual and
17 developmental disabilities, higher caregiver satisfaction, and significant cost savings to both
18 state and federal healthcare programs.

19 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
20 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health
21 to develop, in collaboration with the ARC of Louisiana and other key stakeholders, a
22 statewide I-SNP for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Department of Health shall
24 coordinate with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services to obtain necessary waivers
25 to align long-term services and supports with Medicare benefits.

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
27 secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health, the surgeon general, and the governor.

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)]

HR 218 Original

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Requests that the Louisiana Department of Health develop and implement an institutional special needs plan to serve individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.