
DIGEST

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HB 654 Original

2026 Regular Session

Berault

Abstract: Provides relative to licensed nursing facility beds.

Present law requires the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) to promulgate rules to establish a facility need review process to determine the need for additional nursing facility beds.

Proposed law modifies present law by providing that need for new nursing facility beds is determined by comparing the national average of beds per person over the age of 65 to the parish average of beds per person over the age of 65 to determine the need in a parish.

Present law establishes a moratorium on new nursing facilities and additional nursing facility beds until July 1, 2027.

Proposed law repeals present law.

Proposed law provides that LDH shall grant new licenses if the parish of nursing facility beds per person over the age of 65 is less than the national average of nursing facility beds per person over the age of 65 by more than 30 beds.

Proposed law provides that if the parish average is between 30 and 120 beds, LDH shall accept applications to expand an existing nursing facility in the parish with need.

Proposed law further provides that if the parish average shows that the need for new nursing beds is greater than 120, LDH shall accept applications to open a new nursing facility in the parish with need.

Proposed law directs LDH to establish guidelines for ranking and evaluating applications for expanding or granting new nursing facility bed licenses.

Proposed law directs LDH to give preference to applicants based on quality rankings, commitment to building or expanding facilities with private rooms and restrooms.

Proposed law directs LDH to only consider applicants that are both owner and operator of nursing facilities if they have a 5% ownership in a Louisiana nursing facility.

Proposed law provides that an applicant awarded a nursing facility bed license shall have one year to obtain building permits and begin construction, with one six-month extension, or the licenses will

be awarded to the next most competitive applicant.

Present law prohibits licensing or certifying any new nursing facility, service, or bed for participation in the Title XIX (Medicaid) program without prior approval based on a determination of need.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law provides for exceptions to the moratorium for facilities that are replacements of existing facilities, replacement of nursing facility beds with adult residential care home beds, and nursing facility beds in alternate use.

Proposed law modifies present law by providing that replacement of existing facilities, replacing nursing facility beds with adult residential care home beds, and nursing facility beds in alternate uses shall be excepted from the facility need review process provided for in proposed law.

Present law provides an exception to the moratorium on nursing facility beds when facilities reach a certain occupancy level.

Proposed law repeals present law.

Present law provides for the membership of the facility need review committee.

Proposed law retains present law.

(Amends R.S. 40:2116.3; Repeals R.S. 40:2116.1)