
DIGEST

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HB 676 Original

2026 Regular Session

Spell

Abstract: Creates the crime of fraudulent patient referrals or "body brokering".

Proposed law provides that no person shall knowingly or intentionally, directly or indirectly, overtly or covertly, in cash or in kind, do either of the following:

- (1) Solicit, offer, pay, or receive any fee, payment, rebate, or commission, including but not limited to bribes or kickbacks to or from a person for the referral of a patient to a residential substance abuse facility, mental health facility, or a facility licensed for substance use disorder treatment or services.
- (2) Assist, conspire with, urge, or market to any person to make, furnish, or receive any fee, payment, rebate, or commission, including but not limited to bribes or kickbacks in violation of proposed law.

Proposed law provides for exceptions.

Proposed law defines the terms "health care facility", "health care provider", "person", and "residential substance abuse facility".

Proposed law provides for a penalty consisting of imprisonment with or without hard labor for not more than five years or a maximum fine of \$50,000, or both.

Proposed law permits additional penalties as follows:

- (1) Suspension or revocation of the offender's license or other credentials by the appropriate board pursuant to present law (R.S. 37:1745(C)).
- (2) A maximum civil fine of \$25,000.
- (3) Any other applicable civil fine that may be assessed by the La. Dept. of Health in accordance with present law (R.S. 40:2199).

Proposed law provides for the payment of restitution to the victim and any other person who has suffered a financial loss as a result of the offense in accordance with present law (C.Cr.P. Art. 883.2).

(Adds R.S. 14:70.5.1)