

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 971

BY REPRESENTATIVE STAGNI

MEDICAID: Provides relative to Medicaid reimbursement for rural health clinics

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 40:2197.1, relative to rural health clinics; to provide for Medicaid  
3 reimbursement rates of rural health clinics; to provide for the promulgation and  
4 adoption of rules; to provide for a state plan amendment; to provide for an  
5 implementation date; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 40:2197.1 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

8 §2197.1. Equality in Medicaid reimbursement rates for rural health clinics

9 A. The secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health shall take all  
10 necessary actions to equalize the Medicaid reimbursement rate between independent  
11 rural health clinics, also known as type one rural health clinics, and provider-based  
12 rural health clinics, also known as type two and three rural health clinics. The  
13 Louisiana Department of Health shall ensure that independent rural health clinics are  
14 reimbursed by Medicaid at the same rate as provider-based rural health clinics.

15 B. The Louisiana Department of Health shall prepare a state plan amendment  
16 or promulgate and adopt rules, as necessary, to implement the provisions of this  
17 Section.

18 Section 2. Not later than October 1, 2026, the Louisiana Department of Health shall  
19 take all necessary actions to implement the provisions of Section 1 of this Act.

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**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)]

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HB 971 Original

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**Abstract:** Requires the La. Dept. of Health (LDH) to take all necessary actions to ensure that independent rural health clinics are reimbursed by Medicaid at the same rate as provider-based rural health clinics.

Present law defines a rural health clinic as a facility that provides primary healthcare services to outpatients located in an area that is not an urbanized area as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau.

Proposed law requires the secretary of LDH to take all necessary actions to equalize Medicaid reimbursement rates between independent rural health clinics and provider-based rural health clinics.

Proposed law requires LDH to take any necessary action to implement the provisions of proposed law including filing a Medicaid state plan amendment or promulgating and adopting rules.

Proposed law requires the department to implement the provisions of proposed law, including filing the necessary state plan amendment, no later than Oct. 1, 2026.

(Adds R.S. 40:2197.1)