

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1030

BY REPRESENTATIVE SPELL

MEDICAID: Provides relative to nonemergency medical transportation for individuals with mental illness

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 40:1257.1(5) through (7) and 1257.6, relative to nonemergency medical
3 transportation for those with mental illnesses; to provide for definitions; to provide
4 for transportation for psychiatric services; to provide for reimbursement for
5 transportation for psychiatric services; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 40:1257.1(5) through (7) and 1257.6 are hereby enacted to read as
8 follows:

9 §1257.1. Definitions

10 As used in this Part, the following terms have the meaning ascribed in this

11 Section:

12 * * *

13 (5) "Institution for mental diseases" means an institution for mental diseases
14 as defined in 42 CFR 435.1010 and 42 CFR 441.13 as those regulations may be
15 amended.

16 (6) "Institution for mental diseases psychiatric service" means an inpatient
17 or outpatient psychiatric or behavioral health service furnished to a Medicaid
18 beneficiary within the scope of and covered under the state medical assistance
19 program and is related to the beneficiary's psychiatric treatment plan including
20 admission to or discharge from an institution for mental diseases.

1 (7) "Institution for mental diseases transportation service" means
 2 nonemergency medical transportation furnished by or through an institution for
 3 mental diseases to a Medicaid beneficiary who is a patient or resident of such
 4 institution for the purpose of transporting the beneficiary to or from an institution for
 5 mental diseases psychiatric service. This includes transportation to the institution
 6 upon admission and from the institution upon discharge and includes transportation
 7 between the institution and the beneficiary's residence, an originating facility, or any
 8 other location associated with the beneficiary's psychiatric admission, discharge, or
 9 treatment.

* * *

11 §1257.6. Institution for mental diseases; transportation for psychiatric services;
 12 reimbursement

13 A.(1) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, an institution for
 14 mental diseases may furnish institution for mental diseases transportation services,
 15 using vehicles owned, leased, or otherwise controlled by the institution or through
 16 an arrangement with a transportation provider under contract with the institution for
 17 the limited purpose of furnishing transportation services for its own Medicaid
 18 beneficiaries who are patients or residents of the institution.

19 (2) Institution for mental diseases transportation services may be for
 20 admitting to an inpatient level of care or for the patient to receive outpatient medical
 21 services from the institution for mental diseases provider.

22 B.(1) Institution for mental diseases transportation services furnished
 23 pursuant to this Section shall be reimbursed at the same base and mileage rates and
 24 in the same manner as otherwise applicable to nonemergency medical transportation
 25 services under the Medicaid fee schedule in effect on the date of service.

26 (2) The department shall ensure that institution for mental diseases
 27 transportation services are payable under fee-for-service Medicaid when the
 28 beneficiary is eligible for such payment.

1 (3) For Medicaid beneficiaries enrolled in a managed care organization or
2 other capitated entity under contract with the department, each managed care
3 organization shall reimburse the institution for institution for mental diseases
4 transportation services at a rate not less than the Medicaid fee schedule rate
5 described in this Subsection and such reimbursement shall be made directly to the
6 institution or its designee.

7 C. Institution for mental diseases transportation services furnished pursuant
8 to this Section shall not be required to be arranged, authorized, scheduled,
9 dispatched, or paid through the department's nonemergency medical transportation
10 brokerage program, a Medicaid transportation broker, third-party administrator, or
11 any successor entity administering nonemergency medical transportation brokerage
12 services for the department or a managed care organization.

13 D. Nothing in this Section shall be construed to exempt an institution for
14 mental diseases, its agents, or any vehicle or driver used to furnish institution for
15 mental diseases transportation services from compliance with applicable state and
16 federal requirements.

17 E. The department may by rule establish minimum standards necessary to
18 ensure patient safety. This includes requirements related to vehicle safety, driver
19 qualifications, insurance, record keeping, and audit access considering the existing
20 standards and requirements in place for institution for mental diseases licensure.

21 F.(1) Institution for mental diseases transportation services authorized by this
22 Section are limited to transportation to or from institution for mental diseases
23 psychiatric services.

24 (2) Nothing in this Section shall be construed to authorize reimbursement for
25 transportation to or from non-psychiatric medical, dental, pharmacy, laboratory,
26 imaging, or other Medicaid-covered services not included within the definition of
27 institution for mental diseases psychiatric service.

1 (3) Institution for mental diseases transportation services shall not occur if
 2 the patient is not intended to receive inpatient or outpatient services from the
 3 institution for mental diseases providing the transportation.

4 Section 3. This Act shall become effective on July 1, 2026.

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)]

HB 1030 Original

2026 Regular Session

Spell

Abstract: Provides relative to nonemergency medical transportation for individuals in need of psychiatric services and the reimbursement for transportation for psychiatric services.

Present law provides for definitions relative to nonemergency medical transportation.

Proposed law adds definitions for "Institution for mental diseases", "Institution for mental diseases psychiatric service", and "Institution for mental diseases transportation services".

Proposed law provides for reimbursement for transportation for psychiatric services.

Proposed law provides for an institution for mental diseases to furnish institution for mental diseases transportation service vehicles.

Proposed law provides for reimbursement guidelines set in the Medicaid fee schedule.

Proposed law prohibits the institution for mental diseases transportation services from being paid through the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) nonemergency medical transportation brokerage program, a Medicaid transportation broker, third-party administrator, or any successor entity.

Proposed law does not exempt an institution for mental diseases, its agents, or any of their drivers from complying with applicable state and federal requirements.

Proposed law provides for the LDH to establish minimum standards to ensure patient safety.

Proposed law prohibits an institution for mental diseases transportation service from being reimbursed for non-psychiatric treatment transportation.

Effective July 1, 2026

(Adds R.S. 40:1257.1(5)-(7) and 1257.6)