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## DIGEST

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HB 676 Engrossed

2026 Regular Session

Spell

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

Proposed law prohibits a person from knowingly or intentionally, directly or indirectly, overtly or covertly, in cash or in kind, doing either of the following:

- (1) Soliciting, offering, paying, or receiving any fee, payment, rebate, or commission, including but not limited to bribes or kickbacks 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) Assisting, conspiring with, urging, or marketing to any person to make, furnish, or receive any fee, payment, rebate, or commission, including but not limited to bribes or kickbacks 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.

Proposed law provides for exceptions.

Proposed law defines the terms "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).

Effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Adds R.S. 14:70.5.1)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice to the original bill:

1. Remove definitions for the terms "health care facility" and "health care provider".
2. Clarify the elements of proposed law.
3. Provide for an effective date upon the governor's signature or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.
4. Make technical changes.