

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           G. The provisions of this Section shall not be implemented unless approved  
5           by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

6           Section 3. This Act shall become effective on January 1, 2027. The  
7           Louisiana Department of Health shall submit the necessary implementation plan to  
8           the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services by August 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 Reengrossed                      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.

Proposed law provides that proposed law shall not be implemented unless approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and that LDH submit an implementation plan to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services by August 1, 2026.

Effective January 1, 2027

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

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill:

1. Provide that proposed law shall not be implemented unless approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.
2. Change the effective date to January 1, 2027.
3. Require LDH to submit an implementation plan to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.