

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 ninety days after the effective date of this Act, the
19 Louisiana Department of Health shall take all necessary actions to implement the provisions
20 of Section 1 of this Act.

1 Section 3.(A) The provisions of Sections 1 and 2 of this Act shall become effective
2 when an Act of the Louisiana Legislature containing a specific appropriation of monies for
3 the implementation of the provisions of this Act becomes effective.

4 (B) The provisions of this Section shall become effective upon signature by the
5 governor or, if not signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become
6 law without signature by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the
7 Constitution of Louisiana. If vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the
8 legislature, the provisions of this Section shall become effective on the day following such
9 approval.

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 971 Reengrossed

2026 Regular Session

Stagni

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 not later than 90 days after the effective date of proposed law including filing a Medicaid state plan amendment or promulgating and adopting rules.

Effective upon appropriation of funds by the legislature.

(Adds R.S. 40:2197.1)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Appropriations to the engrossed bill:

1. Change deadline by which LDH must take action to implement proposed law from Oct. 1, 2026, to 90 days after proposed law becomes effective.
2. Make effectiveness of proposed law subject to appropriation of monies by the legislature for the implementation of proposed law.