

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 198

BY REPRESENTATIVE ECHOLS

HEALTH: Provides relative to Medicaid reimbursement of ambulatory surgical centers for certain procedures

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 46:452, relative to ambulatory surgical centers; to provide for Medicaid  
3 reimbursement rates; to authorize the Louisiana Department of Health to promulgate  
4 rules; to provide for an effective date; and to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 46:452 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

7 §452. Reimbursement rate for ambulatory surgery centers

8 A. The secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health shall take all  
9 necessary actions to establish a Medicaid reimbursement rate which is the lesser of  
10 the rate paid in an outpatient hospital setting or one hundred percent of the Medicare  
11 rate for gastroenterology, ophthalmology, and otolaryngology procedures conducted  
12 at ambulatory surgery centers.

13 B. The Louisiana Department of Health shall take all necessary actions to  
14 update the reimbursement rate for gastroenterology, ophthalmology, and  
15 otolaryngology procedures conducted by ambulatory surgery centers annually in  
16 accordance with the methodology described in Subsection A.

17 C. The Louisiana Department of Health shall promulgate all rules and  
18 regulations in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act as are necessary to  
19 implement the provisions of this Section.

20 Section 2. Not later than October 1, 2026, the Louisiana Department of Health shall  
21 take all necessary actions including but not limited to filing a Medicaid state plan  
22 amendment, to implement the provisions of Section 1 of this Act.

1 Section 3. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not  
 2 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature  
 3 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If  
 4 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become  
 5 effective on the day following such approval.

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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 198 Reengrossed

2026 Regular Session

Echols

**Abstract:** Provides for Medicaid reimbursement for certain gastroenterology, otolaryngology, and ophthalmology procedures performed in ambulatory surgery centers.

Proposed law requires the secretary of the La. Dept. of Health (LDH) to take all necessary actions to implement a plan to reimburse ambulatory surgery centers described by proposed law.

Proposed law provides that gastroenterology, otolaryngology (ear, nose, and throat), and ophthalmology procedures performed at an ambulatory surgery center shall be reimbursed by Medicaid at a rate equal to the rate paid in an outpatient hospital setting or 100% of the Medicare rate, whichever is less.

Proposed law requires LDH to promulgate all necessary rules and regulations to implement proposed law.

Proposed law directs LDH to implement proposed law by Oct. 1, 2026.

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

(Adds R.S. 46:452)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Health and Welfare to the original bill:

1. Add additional procedures and surgeries that would be eligible for a modified reimbursement rate in accordance with proposed law.
2. Provides for the reimbursement rate for certain procedures performed at an ambulatory surgery center.

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

1. Remove dental surgery procedures from proposed law.