
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.