

SENATE BILL NO. 221

BY SENATOR BOUDREAUX AND REPRESENTATIVE CHASSION

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 40:1132, relative to ambulance providers; to provide for definitions; to  
3 provide for Medicaid coverage of certain services; to provide for reimbursement  
4 rates; to provide for rulemaking; and to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 40:1132 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

7 **§1132. Ambulance provider treatment-in-place services; medical assistance**  
8 **program**

9 **A. As used in this Section, the following definitions apply unless**  
10 **otherwise indicated:**

11 **(1) "911 call" means a communication made on behalf of a beneficiary**  
12 **indicating that the beneficiary may need emergency medical services.**

13 **(2) "Ambulance provider" means an ambulance provider as defined in**  
14 **R.S. 40:1131. For purposes of this Section, "ambulance provider" does not**  
15 **include an air ambulance provider.**

16 **(3) "Beneficiary" means a person who is entitled to receive covered**  
17 **healthcare services under the terms of the medical assistance program.**

18 **(4) "Medical assistance program" means the medical assistance program**  
19 **provided for in Title XIX of the Social Security Act as administered by the**  
20 **Louisiana Department of Health.**

21 **(5) "Qualified medical practitioner" means a licensed physician, nurse**  
22 **practitioner, or physician's assistant.**

23 **(6) "Treatment-in-place service" means an encounter between an**  
24 **ambulance provider and beneficiary which takes place in response to a 911 call**  
25 **where an assessment or treatment is provided by the ambulance provider to the**  
26 **beneficiary but transport of the beneficiary is not performed.**

27 **B. Treatment-in-place services, as provided for by this Section, shall be**

1 a covered service under the medical assistance program.

2 C. Initiation and facilitation of treatment-in-place services may be  
3 performed by ambulance providers on site to beneficiaries, with no transport,  
4 and may include the use of audio and video telecommunication systems that  
5 permit real-time communication between the ambulance provider and a  
6 qualified medical practitioner. However, audio and video telecommunications  
7 between the ambulance provider and a qualified medical practitioner shall not  
8 be required in order for the ambulance provider to be reimbursed for  
9 treatment-in-place services by the medical assistance program.

10 D. Treatment-in-place services shall only be provided in accordance with  
11 the ambulance provider's medical direction and established protocols. Any  
12 medical assessment or services rendered by EMS practitioners shall be  
13 consistent with the practitioner's scope of practice.

14 E. All treatment-in-place services provided by ambulance providers  
15 during the initiation and facilitation of the treatment-in-place encounter shall  
16 be covered at the associated basic life support, emergency base rate, or the  
17 advanced life support, Level 1 emergency base rate provided for in the  
18 Medicaid fee schedule, depending on level of response and services rendered.

19 F. The Louisiana Department of Health shall promulgate rules and  
20 regulations as necessary for the implementation of the provisions of this Section.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_