

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 105

BY REPRESENTATIVE FREIBERG

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health and Louisiana commercial health insurance payors to increase reimbursement rates for Behavioral Health Crisis Centers (BHCCs) operating under a Crisis Receiving Center (CRC) license.

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Crisis Response System (LA-CRS) was established in 2022 as a statewide mental health crisis response system aligned with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) guidelines; and

WHEREAS, the goals of the LA-CRS are to support individuals with mental illness who have been living in nursing facilities transition back into the community; reduce emergency room utilization; and decrease law enforcement and justice system involvement in the care of individuals with mental illness; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Office of Behavioral Health (OBH) included in its final design for its crisis system of care four key services, including Mobile Crisis Response, Community Brief Crisis Support, Behavioral Health Crisis Centers, and Crisis Stabilization; and

WHEREAS, Behavioral Health Crisis Centers are walk-in facilities that offer short-term crisis intervention services, which include twenty-three-hour care designed to stabilize individuals in crisis; and

WHEREAS, under the Louisiana Department of Health's licensing framework, BHCCs may obtain either a Behavioral Health Service (BHS) provider license or a Crisis Receiving Center (CRC) license; and

WHEREAS, facilities licensed as Crisis Receiving Centers are the only facilities authorized and staffed to offer both short-term, twenty-three-hour crisis stabilization services

(Behavioral Health Crisis Centers) and longer-term, three through seven-day crisis care (CS) at the same location for individuals requiring further stabilization; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Medicaid fee schedule has distinct reimbursement rates for behavioral health crisis care performed with a Behavioral Health Service license versus a Crisis Receiving Center license in accordance with the different levels of staffing required; and

WHEREAS, Medicaid reimbursement rates for Behavioral Health Crisis Centers providers operating under a Crisis Receiving Center license are inadequate to cover the cost of the twenty-four-hour staffing model required by the Louisiana Department of Health and the additional staffing required to care for higher-acuity patients served by BHCC-CRCs; and

WHEREAS, an independent, third-party rate analysis shows the total per diem cost for a Crisis Receiving Center -licensed Behavioral Health Crisis Center to provide the first twenty-three hours of care in compliance with state and federal regulatory staffing requirements is one thousand one hundred sixty-three dollars, which includes costs for clinicians, nurses, licensed prescribers, peer support specialists, and behavioral health technicians; and

WHEREAS, the current Louisiana Medicaid per diem reimbursement rate for a Crisis Receiving Center -licensed Behavioral Health Crisis Center is five hundred forty-nine dollars and forty cents; and

WHEREAS, as a result of inadequate Medicaid reimbursement rates for Crisis Receiving Center-licensed Behavioral Health Crisis Centers, there is currently only one provider of this type throughout Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, other Crisis Receiving Centers have attempted to open in other regions of the state but have been unable to open or remain viable due to inadequate Medicaid reimbursement rates.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Louisiana Department of Health and Louisiana commercial health insurance payors to increase reimbursement rates to more accurately reflect the cost of providing crisis stabilization services at Behavioral Health Crisis Centers operating under a Crisis Receiving Center license.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health and the president of the Louisiana Association of Health Plans.

---

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

---

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE