

**ACT No. 715**

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1214

BY REPRESENTATIVE MILLER

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 28:21, 25.1(B), 451.2 (introductory paragraph), (1), and  
3 (9)(introductory paragraph), 451.4, and 451.6(A), R.S. 36:251(C)(1), 253,  
4 254(B)(1)(a)(i), 257(A) and (C), and 258(A), (D), and (F), and R.S. 40:16.1(Section  
5 Heading), to enact R.S. 36:253.1, 258(N), and 258.1, and to repeal R.S.  
6 28:22.8(A)(2) and (3) and 451.2(9)(a) and (b), relative to the Louisiana Department  
7 of Health; to create the office of state health care facilities within the Louisiana  
8 Department of Health; to provide for the purposes, duties, and functions of the office  
9 of state health care facilities; to provide for the administration of certain healthcare  
10 facilities; to provide for the authority and duties of the secretary of the Louisiana  
11 Department of Health; to provide for the authority and duties of the offices of the  
12 Louisiana Department of Health; to provide for the of the executive office of the  
13 secretary; to provide for an effective date; and to provide for related matters.

14 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

15 Section 1. R.S. 28:21, 25.1(B), 451.2(1) and (9)(introductory paragraph), 451.4, and  
16 451.6(A) are hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

17 §21. State psychiatric hospitals

18 A. For purposes of this Part, "state psychiatric hospital" refers to the hospital  
19 at Jackson, known as the Eastern Louisiana Mental Health System, and the hospital  
20 at Pineville, known as the Central Louisiana State Hospital, which are designated as  
21 the hospitals for persons who have a mental illness or a substance-related or  
22 addictive disorder until such time as separate or other hospitals are established. The  
23 ~~assistant secretary of the office of behavioral health of~~ office of state health care  
24 facilities within the department may reorganize and consolidate the administration  
25 of the hospitals or facilities.



1 coordinate, as necessary, with the office for citizens with developmental disabilities  
 2 to provide and develop developmental disabilities services. Developmental centers  
 3 are responsible ~~for:~~ for planning and providing living options and other  
 4 developmental disabilities services.

5 \* \* \*

6 §451.4. State developmental centers; office ~~for citizens with developmental~~  
 7 ~~disabilities~~ of state health care facilities

8 A. The office of state health care facilities shall administer, supervise, and  
 9 be responsible for the operation of state developmental centers providing  
 10 developmental disabilities services.

11 B. Pinecrest Supports and Services Center is continued as an administrative  
 12 unit of ~~this~~ the office of state health care facilities.

13 C. Central Louisiana Supports and Services Center shall be an administrative  
 14 unit of ~~this~~ the office of state health care facilities.

15 D. The facility administrator of each center shall recommend to the  
 16 executive director of the office of state health care facilities and the secretary of the  
 17 Louisiana Department of Health policies and procedures necessary for the proper and  
 18 orderly operation of the facility. Such policies and procedures shall be consistent  
 19 with principles of this Chapter, office policies, and all applicable federal and state  
 20 laws and regulations. Policies and procedures developed pursuant to this Subsection  
 21 shall not be implemented until approved by the secretary.

22 \* \* \*

23 §451.6. Assignment of property rights

24 A. By receiving services from and living in a licensed, state-operated,  
 25 twenty-four-hour residential facility provided by or through the ~~office~~ department,  
 26 the person shall be deemed to have made an assignment to the department of his  
 27 right, title, and interest in any property he owns, including interest in any trust or  
 28 succession, up to the cost of the services actually provided. The portion of property  
 29 and all assets which, pursuant to federal regulations or statute, the person may retain  
 30 and still maintain eligibility for coverage ~~under~~ in accordance with Title XIX of the

1 Social Security Act programs or successor programs shall be exempt from such  
2 assignment.

3 \* \* \*

4 Section 2. R.S. 36:251(C)(1), 253, 254(B)(1)(a)(i), 257(A) and (C), and 258(A), (D),  
5 and (F) are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 36:253.1, 258(N), and 258.1 are hereby  
6 enacted to read as follows:

7 §251. Louisiana Department of Health; creation; domicile; composition; purpose  
8 and functions

9 \* \* \*

10 C.(1) The Louisiana Department of Health shall be composed of the  
11 executive office of the secretary, the office of the surgeon general, the office of  
12 management and finance, the office of public health, the office of behavioral health,  
13 the office for citizens with developmental disabilities, the office of aging and adult  
14 services, the office on women's health and community health, the office of state  
15 health care facilities, and such other offices as shall be created by law.

16 \* \* \*

17 §253. Secretary of ~~health and hospitals~~ the Louisiana Department of Health

18 There shall be a secretary of ~~health and hospitals~~ the Louisiana Department  
19 of Health, who shall be appointed by the governor with consent of the Senate and  
20 who shall serve at the pleasure of the governor at a salary fixed by the governor,  
21 which salary shall not exceed the amount approved for such position by the  
22 legislature while in session. The secretary shall serve as the executive head and chief  
23 administrative officer of the Louisiana Department of Health and shall have the  
24 responsibility for the policies of the department, except as otherwise provided by this  
25 Title, and for the administration, control, and operation of the functions, programs,  
26 and affairs of the department; provided that the secretary shall perform his functions  
27 under the general control and supervision of the governor.

28 §253.1. Executive office of the secretary; duties and functions

29 A. The secretary shall directly supervise, direct, and control the executive  
30 office of the secretary and the office of state health care facilities.



1 all subject to budgetary control and applicable laws. In the event of an extended  
2 absence or vacancy in the position of an assistant secretary, the secretary may act on  
3 behalf or in lieu of the assistant secretary including as appointing authority for  
4 personnel actions.

5 \* \* \*

6 §258. Offices; purposes and functions

7 A. The purposes for which the offices, except for the executive office of the  
8 secretary and the office of management and finance, of the Louisiana Department of  
9 Health are created shall be set forth in this Section.

10 \* \* \*

11 D. The office for citizens with developmental disabilities shall be responsible  
12 for the programs and functions of the state relating to the care, training, treatment,  
13 and education of persons with intellectual disabilities, persons with developmental  
14 disabilities, and persons with autism. It shall ~~administer~~ coordinate as needed with  
15 the office of state health care facilities regarding residential and day care facilities  
16 of the state for persons with intellectual disabilities and persons with developmental  
17 disabilities.

18 \* \* \*

19 F. The office of aging and adult services shall be responsible for the  
20 programs and functions of the Louisiana Department of Health related to the  
21 long-term care of the elderly and the protection and long-term care of persons with  
22 adult onset disabilities. It shall administer ~~the residential state-operated nursing~~  
23 ~~homes, the Villa Feliciana Medical Complex,~~ the protection services program of  
24 adults from ages eighteen to fifty-nine, the department's long-term support and  
25 services programs, the State Personal Assistance Services program, the Community  
26 and Family Support Program, the Traumatic Brain and Spinal Cord Injury Trust  
27 Fund, as well as other related programs within the department.

28 \* \* \*

29 N. The office of state health care facilities shall be responsible for leading  
30 and coordinating efforts with the Louisiana Department of Health to administer the

1 operation of state health care facilities provided for in R.S. 36:258.1. The office of  
2 state health care facilities shall be responsible for compliance with state and federal  
3 regulations and requirements for state health care facilities under its administration.

4 §258.1 Office of state health care facilities

5 A. The Louisiana Department of Health, office of state health care facilities  
6 shall administer and coordinate all of the following facilities:

7 (1) The state psychiatric hospital in Jackson, Louisiana, known as Eastern  
8 Louisiana Mental Health System, in accordance with R.S. 28:21.

9 (2) The state psychiatric hospital in Pineville, Louisiana, known as Central  
10 Louisiana State Hospital, in accordance with R.S. 28:21.

11 (3) The state forensic hospital in Jackson, Louisiana, known as Feliciana  
12 Forensic Facility, in accordance with R.S. 28:25.1.

13 (4) The geriatric hospital, including its skilled nursing facility unit, at  
14 Jackson, Louisiana, known as Villa Feliciana Medical Complex, in accordance with  
15 R.S. 28:22.7.

16 (5) The state developmental center for persons with developmental  
17 disabilities, known as Pinecrest Supports and Services Center, accordance with R.S.  
18 28:22.8.

19 (6) The state developmental center for persons with developmental  
20 disabilities, known as Central Louisiana Supports and Services Center, in accordance  
21 with R.S. 28:22.8.

22 (7) Any other licensed state health care facility upon appropriation by the  
23 legislature.

24 B. The department shall employ an executive director of the office of state  
25 health care facilities who shall report directly to the secretary.

26 C. Each administrator or chief executive officer of a facility provided for in  
27 Subsection A of this Section shall report directly to the executive director of the  
28 office of state health care facilities.

29 D. The office of state health care facilities may obtain licensure and  
30 certification for and may operate such other state health care facilities as funds for

