
The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Jay R. Lueckel.

DIGEST

Mills (SB 355)

Proposed constitutional amendment provides for the stabilization of the budget for the Medicaid program, other Department of Health and Hospitals agencies and facilities, and the Louisiana Workforce Commission's rehabilitation services program.

Proposed constitutional amendment requires the legislature to annually appropriate the funds necessary to provide for Medicaid reimbursement rates to providers, excluding the rates for provider groups that pay fees or assessments that are deposited in fund established by constitution, that are no less than the average Medicaid rates established for FY 2013-2014. Further, the proposed constitutional amendment provides that Medicaid reimbursement rates may be adjusted annually by inflation or rebasing and such adjustments shall not be negative.

Proposed constitutional amendment also provides for reductions in Medicaid reimbursement rates to satisfy a budget deficit only if the following occur:

- (1) The reduction does not exceed the average reduction of those made to the appropriations and reimbursements for other providers under the Medicaid program; and
- (2) If the legislature is in session, the reduction shall receive written consent of two-thirds of the elected members of each house in a manner provided by law, or if the legislature is not in session, the reduction is approved by a favorable vote of two-thirds of the members of the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget.

Proposed constitutional amendment requires the legislature to annually appropriate the funds necessary to provide funding for the Department of Health and Hospitals' agencies and facilities and Louisiana Workforce Commission's rehabilitation services that is no less than the appropriation for these agencies, facilities and services in FY 2013-2014.

Proposed constitutional amendment further provides for reductions to the appropriation for these health care and rehabilitation programs to satisfy a budget deficit only if the following occur:

- (1) The reductions are proportionally equivalent among all agencies, facilities and programs provided for the constitutional amendment; and
- (2) If the legislature is in session, the reductions receive written consent of two-thirds of the elected members of each house in a manner provided by law, or if the legislature is not in session, the reduction is approved by a favorable vote of two-thirds of the members of the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget.

Specifies submission of the amendment to the voters at the statewide election to be held November 4, 2014.

(Adds Const. Art. VII, Sec. 10.13)