

---

## 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 427 Original

2019 Regular Session

Smith

**Abstract:** Requires certain healthcare facilities to provide communication-related services for the deaf or hard of hearing, and requires the La. Dept. of Health to provide training on Medicaid claims for interpreter services and to promulgate rules to implement these services.

Proposed law defines department, interpreter/transliterater, nursing facility, and qualified interpreter/transliterater.

Proposed law requires healthcare facilities to perform a communication needs assessment for a patient who is deaf or hard of hearing.

Proposed law provides that if the patient needs to communicate through a sign language interpreter/transliterater in order to understand the verbal communication of the treating healthcare personnel then the healthcare facility shall make services available to the patient, either through video remote service or a live, in-person interpreter/transliterater.

Proposed law requires that La. Dept. of Health (LDH) provide training for nursing facilities on submitting an interpreter services claim for a patient who has coverage through Medicaid.

Proposed law requires nursing facilities who admit residents who are deaf or hard of hearing recruit qualified and certified nurse aides to assist those patients who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Proposed law provides that LDH shall promulgate rules to implement and enforce the need for communication-related services.

(Adds R.S. 40:1179.1-1179.4)