The original instrument was prepared by Brandi Cannon. The following digest, which does not constitute a part of the legislative instrument, was prepared by Tracy Sabina Sudduth.

DIGEST

SB 135 Reengrossed

2023 Regular Session

Barrow

<u>Proposed law</u> provides that the La. Dept. of Health shall implement a Medicaid reimbursement rate for services by licensed midwives or certified nurse midwives that is, at a minimum, 95% of the amount reimbursed to licensed physicians for the provision of the same health services in pregnancy and childbirth, when acting within their scope of practice.

Proposed law defines "midwife".

<u>Proposed law</u> requires the midwife to be enrolled as a Medicaid provider and be a managed care organization network or fee for service provider in the Medicaid program in order to be reimbursed in accordance with <u>proposed law</u>.

Proposed law is subject to approval by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

Proposed law shall not be construed to do any of the following:

- (1) Require a decrease in any reimbursement rate for midwife services that are reimbursed equal to the amount reimbursed to licensed physicians.
- (2) Expand, diminish, or alter the scope of practice of a midwife.
- (3) Require Medicaid to cover any specific healthcare service.

Effective August 1, 2023.

(Adds R.S. 46:451)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Health and Welfare to the original bill

- 1. Increase the minimum reimbursement from 90% to 95% of the amount reimbursed to licensed physicians.
- 2. Specify that services must be within the scope of practice for midwives.

- 3. Extend applicability to both licensed midwives and certified nurse midwives.
- 4. Extend applicability to a midwife enrolled as a Medicaid fee for service provider.
- 5. Make technical changes.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Finance to the engrossed bill

1. Makes a technical amendment.