

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 677 (HB 80)

2024 Regular Session

Echols

New law provides a declaration concerning the suitability of transportation network companies to protect and promote public health by facilitating access to primary care, pharmacy services, and other forms of health care that help people to maintain and improve their health.

New law further provides that if the La. Dept. of Health (LDH) determines that transportation network providers can provide transportation services for Medicaid recipients in a certain manner and in compliance with existing law, riders may be connected to drivers by utilizing a Medicaid nonemergency medical transportation (NEMT) broker.

New law authorizes LDH to promulgate rules and regulations as are necessary for the implementation of new law.

New law prohibits transportation network companies from providing Medicaid NEMT services prior to rules being promulgated by LDH and demonstration of compliance with the requirements of its rules.

New law specifies that the requirements for companies and drivers to act as Medicaid transportation providers shall include requirements for enrollment and specifications for vehicles used and requirements that are necessary to conform with applicable federal Medicaid transportation requirements.

With respect to criminal background checks, new law prohibits drivers from providing NEMT services to Medicaid enrollees through a transportation network company's digital network prior to the completion of a criminal background check on that driver which comports with either of the following:

- (1) Background check requirements provided in existing law relative to nonlicensed persons providing health-related services.
- (2) Background check requirements provided in existing law relative to transportation network companies.

New law stipulates that, notwithstanding other provisions of new law, LDH shall require that prior to facilitating NEMT services for Medicaid enrollees, a transportation network company shall be under contract with a transportation broker that is under contract with either of the following:

- (1) A Medicaid managed care organization.
- (2) LDH.

New law provides that existing law shall apply to the regulation of companies, drivers, and vehicles facilitating or providing nonemergency medical transportation services as authorized in new law.

New law provides that nothing within new law shall be construed to authorize a company or individual to violate any provision of existing law relative to the operation of ambulances.

New law prohibits the use of ambulances, emergency medical response vehicles, and EMS practitioners as defined in existing law for the provision of NEMT services authorized by new law.

Effective August 1, 2024.

(Adds R.S. 40:1257.5)