

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 198

BY REPRESENTATIVE ECHOLS

HEALTH: Provides relative to Medicaid reimbursement of ambulatory surgical centers for certain procedures

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 46:452, relative to ambulatory surgical centers; to provide for Medicaid  
3 reimbursement rates; to authorize the Louisiana Department of Health to promulgate  
4 rules; to provide for an effective date; and to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 46:452 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

7 §452. Reimbursement rate for ambulatory surgery centers

8 A. The secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health shall take all  
9 necessary actions to establish a Medicaid reimbursement rate at or exceeding one  
10 hundred percent of the Medicare rate for gastroenterology procedures conducted at  
11 ambulatory surgery centers.

12 B. The Louisiana Department of Health shall take all necessary actions to  
13 update the reimbursement rate for gastroenterology procedures conducted by  
14 ambulatory surgery centers annually in line with annual Medicare rate adjustments.

15 C. The Louisiana Department of Health shall promulgate all rules and  
16 regulations in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act as are necessary to  
17 implement the provisions of this Section.

18 Section 2. Not later than October 1, 2026, the Louisiana Department of Health shall  
19 take all necessary actions including but not limited to filing a Medicaid state plan  
20 amendment, to implement the provisions of Section 1 of this Act.

1           Section 3. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not  
2 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature  
3 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If  
4 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become  
5 effective on the day following such approval.

---

#### 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 198 Original

2026 Regular Session

Echols

**Abstract:** Provides for Medicaid reimbursement for certain gastroenterology procedures performed in ambulatory surgical centers.

Proposed law requires the secretary of the La. Dept. of Health (LDH) to take all necessary actions to implement a plan to reimburse ambulatory surgery centers that perform gastroenterology procedures at a rate not less than 100 percent of the Medicare rate for the same procedures.

Proposed law requires LDH to update reimbursement rates for gastroenterology procedures performed in ambulatory surgical centers annually to reflect Medicare rate adjustments.

Proposed law requires LDH to promulgate all necessary rules and regulations to implement proposed law.

Proposed law directs LDH to implement proposed law by Oct. 1, 2026.

Effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Adds R.S. 46:452)