

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 878 (HB 1139)

2026 Regular Session

Fisher

New law requires a healthcare facility treating a patient admitted by an emergency certificate to provide certain behavioral health services.

New law provides that if a patient is admitted to a healthcare facility, the facility is required, within 72 hours of admission, to do all of the following:

- (1) Ensure that the licensed healthcare professional conducts a behavioral health evaluation of the patient for underlying behavioral conditions.
- (2) Contact the patient's primary healthcare provider or licensed healthcare professional, who provides behavioral health services, if known, in order to establish a patient treatment history.

Existing law provides that if a patient is admitted for inpatient behavioral healthcare services pursuant to an emergency certificate issued in accordance with existing law (R.S. 28:53), the individual who is responsible for discharge planning at the healthcare facility where the patient has been admitted shall make a reasonable effort to do all of the following:

- (1) Provide written or telephonic notification to any healthcare professional that is currently providing behavioral health services to the patient, if known, of the date and time that the patient is scheduled to be discharged, unless the patient objects to that information being communicated.
- (2) Provide written or telephonic notification within 24 hours of discharge to any healthcare professional that the patient is being referred to for follow-up behavioral health services. Existing law requires the healthcare professional to be provided with a summary of the patient's medical history and current mental health conditions.
- (3) Provide the patient with educational documents published by the La. Dept. of Health (LDH) prior to or at the time of discharge. Existing law provides what information shall be included in the educational documents.

New law modifies existing law by adding additional requirements upon discharge. A healthcare facility is required to do all of the following:

- (1) Refer the patient to the appropriate healthcare professional if the patient does not have a healthcare professional who is currently providing primary or behavioral health services.
- (2) Ensure that the patient is provided with the appropriate prescriptions.

Effective August 1, 2026.

(Amends R.S. 28:53.1)