



LOUISIANA HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

# HFMA Annual Conference

April 29, 2024

# 2024 Regular Session Legislative Outlook

## Session Timeline:

- General Session: Unlimited General Subject-Matter Bills; No Fiscal/Tax Bills
- Convened March 11
- Adjourns June 3
- 1,483 Total Bills
- 977 House Bills; 506 Senate Bills



## 2024 Workforce Legislation

### HB 329: Legislation to address critical healthcare workforce challenges

- Seeks to make changes to the Health Care Employment Reinvestment Opportunity (HERO) Fund
- Specifically authorizes state grant programs with healthcare employers as the primary applicant
- Appropriate flexibility to allow proposals to meet varying challenges in different markets
- Defined administrator with an allowance for reasonable administrative costs



Rep. Brach Myers  
(R-Lafayette)  
District 45

## Hospitals

- **HB 592: Rep. Dustin Miller (D-Opelousas)**
  - Provides relative to workplace violence in healthcare settings
  - Pending House Floor action
- **SB 55: Sen. Gary Carter (D-New Orleans)**
  - Requires hospitals to provide mothers and their family members information provided to hospitals by LDH about “post-birth warning signs”
  - Pending House Health & Welfare Committee

## Hospitals

- **HB 976: Rep. Charles Owen (R-Rosepine)**
  - Provides for hospital visitation
  - Pending House Floor action
- **HB 372: Rep. Raymond Crews (R-Bossier City)**
  - Reporting requirements concerning wait times for patients transported to a hospital by a ground ambulance provider for the purpose of receiving emergency medical services
  - Pending Senate Health & Welfare Committee

## Behavioral Health

- **HB 849: Rep. John Illg (R-Harahan)**
  - Requires behavioral health facilities to provide certain notifications to other healthcare providers upon the discharge of a patient who is admitted pursuant to an emergency certificate
  - Notification requirements include a reasonable effort to: 1) send written or telephonic notification to any healthcare professional of the date and time the patient is scheduled to be discharged if the patient requests for that information be communicated to a designated healthcare professional; 2) send written or telephonic notification to any healthcare professional that the patient is scheduled to visit for follow-up behavioral health services within twenty-four hours of discharge; and 3) provide to the patient educational documents published by LDH prior to or at the time of discharge.
  - Pending Senate Committee Referral

## Behavioral Health

- **HB 846: Rep. Alonzo Knox (D-New Orleans)**
  - Requires the Louisiana Division of Administration to submit a report on an annual basis that contains certain information about federal and state funding for mental health services
  - Information at minimum would include budget unit, program description, means of finance, funding source, service provided, population served, area served, and demographic data
  - Pending Senate Finance Committee
- **HB 868: Rep. Peter Egan (R-Covington)**
  - Requires LDH to study and make recommendations for new or revised standards to improve health outcomes and provide for increased accountability for psychiatric hospitals and residential substance abuse facilities
  - Pending House Floor action

## Health Insurance

- **SB 58: Sen. Kirk Talbot (R-River Ridge)**
  - Builds on provisions established by Act 254 of 2023, Cancer Patient's Right to Prompt Coverage Act, and creates penalties when health plans deny prior authorizations for certain cancer services
  - Pending House Floor action
- **SB 219: Sen. Patrick McMath (R-Covington)**
  - Creates new requirements for mutual company conversions when the conversion is associated with an acquisition, including market conduct reviews and LDI approval of marketing materials sent to qualified policy holders, as well as provides for when the vote is to be held of the policy holders and changes the vote requirements
  - Pending House Floor action



## General Government

- **HB 853: Rep. Brach Myers (R-Lafayette)**
  - Creates the Office of Surgeon General within LDH
  - Duties would include, but are not limited to, serving as the chief medical officer of LDH, as the state health officer
  - Pending Senate Health & Welfare Committee
- **HB 800: Rep. Beau Beaulieu (R-New Iberia)**
  - Provides for calling a limited constitutional convention
  - Pending House Appropriations Committee

## Medicaid

- **HB 80: Rep. Michael Echols (R-Monroe)**
  - Authorizes transportation network companies to provide nonemergency medical transportation services through the state Medicaid program
  - Pending Senate Health & Welfare Committee
- **SB 190: Sen. Gerard Boudreaux (D-Lafayette)**
  - Would require LDH to increase certain primary care, obstetric care, non-specialty mental health, substance use disorder, family planning, and women's health services to Medicare rates
  - Pending Senate Finance Committee
- **HB 558: Rep. Chris Turner (R-Ruston)**
  - Would allow a local governing body to assess hospitals located in its jurisdiction and to use those monies for specified purposes
  - Pending Senate Health & Welfare Committee



Rep. Jack McFarland  
(R-Jonesboro)  
District 13

## Medicaid Directed Payments

### HCR 3 by Rep. Jack McFarland (R-Jonesboro)

- Continues the hospital assessment in same manner as last year
- Pending Senate Finance Committee

## Directed Payment Program

- **2024 Activity to Date & Projected Timelines**
  - Jan/Feb/March: LDH worked with industry to develop SFY 2024-25 program
  - Feb/March: Final SFY 2022-23 Reconciliation Data Validation
  - April: SFY 2022-23 Reconciliation Finalized
  - April: SFY 2024-25 Preprint Submitted to CMS
  - July 1: SFY 2024-25 Program Begins

## Worker's Compensation

- **HB 863: Rep. Michael Echols (R-Monroe)**
  - Provides for the adoption of a medical fee reimbursement schedule for worker's compensation
  - Would require the schedule to be reasonable when compared to that of other and have similar statistics of surrounding states
  - Annually updated and supported by data and information, such as potential administrative and procedural relief, potential of paperwork reduction, examining potential processes to expand access and care, and including/considering stakeholder feedback
  - Numerous worker's compensation fee schedule bills debated in House Labor & Industrial Committee to date
  - Pending House Floor Action

## LDH Rulemaking

- **Hospital Licensing Standards**
  - In the [April 2024 Louisiana Register](#), LDH issued a Potpourri announcing substantive changes to the original Notice of Intent published in [December 2023](#) regarding Hospitals Licensing Standards.
  - Many of the revisions address concerns the LHA and others noted in comments to the Department.
  - Public hearing scheduled for 9 a.m. on May 28, 2024, in Room 118 of the Bienville Building at 628 North Fourth Street in Baton Rouge.
  - Comments due May 30, 2024

## Medicare Rulemaking

- **FY 2025 Proposed IPPS Rule**
  - Proposed aggregate 2.6% payment update; additional provisions include but are not limited to:
    - Separate IPPS payment for establishing and maintaining access to essential medicines
    - New mandatory CMS Innovation Center model that would provide bundled payment for certain surgical procedures
    - Distribute new GME slots under section 4122 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023
    - Proposes a number of changes to its quality reporting and value programs
  - Comments due June 10, 2024

## LHA Solutions

- LHA Solutions is LHA's shared services company.
- Mission is to improve the financial viability of Louisiana's hospitals through cost-effective and innovative programs and services
- Continuous operation for more than 30 years
- Provides data services covering more than 4 million lives
- LHIN - Louisiana's largest, statewide all-payer data sharing program
  - Provides participating hospitals access to the most current, comprehensive patient-level data services available
  - In 2018, LHA Solutions began the LHIN-ENS Alerting Service



# LHA | SOLUTIONS Endorsed Programs

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Airgas Healthcare  
an Air Liquide company

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INC.

# THANK YOU

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