



Louisiana Legislative Update

Louisiana HFMA 2026 Annual Institute

May 5, 2026

2026 Legislative Session

- **Key Dates**

- Convened Monday, March 9
- General Session: Unlimited General Subject-Matter Bills; No Fiscal/Tax Bills
- Prefile Deadline: Feb. 27
- Late Introduction Deadline: April 1
- House Bills = 1,248
- Senate Bills = 523
- Adjourns no later than Monday, June 1



2026 Workforce Initiatives Update

- Legislature established Health Care Employment Reinvestment Opportunity (HERO) Fund in 2021
- Continue to advocate for additional investments into the HERO Fund
- Work closely with LDH in its implementation of a Rural HERO program through the Rural Health Transformation Fund

Medicaid Directed Payments

- **HCR 3 by Rep. Jack McFarland (R-Jonesboro)**
 - Hospital Stabilization Assessment
 - Maintains current assessment.
 - Maintains/provides contingencies in the event CMS does not approve either the preprint or the directed payment arrangement, if either are required.
 - HCR 3 has passed the House and awaits hearing in Senate Finance.

Medicaid Managed Care

- **HB 915 by Rep. Kellee Dickerson (R-Denham Springs)**
 - Proposes to set specific timeframes and written procedures for review decisions, including requirements to notify enrollees and providers.
 - Proposes to mandate prompt determinations for standard inpatient, concurrent, expedited, and retrospective reviews.
 - Proposes to prohibit MCOs from denying claims if they fail to make timely decisions.
 - HB 915 has passed the House and awaits Senate Health & Welfare Committee scheduling.

Medicaid Managed Care

- **HB 786 by Rep. Peter Egan (R-Covington)**

- Proposes to prohibit Medicaid MCOs from using extrapolation to audit provider claims and to require that adjustments be based only on actual overpayments or underpayments.
- Proposes to reinforce that these protections cannot be waived by contract and to allow the state to impose penalties on MCOs that violate the law.
- HB 786 has passed the House and awaits Senate committee referral.

Medicaid Managed Care

- **HB 740 by Rep. Emily Chenevert (R-Baton Rouge)**
 - Proposes to include Medicaid services provided through the Coordinated System of Care (CSOC) in the Independent Review process that was established in Act 349 of 2017.
 - Historically, LDH has not allowed CSOC denials to be eligible.
 - HB 740 has passed the House and awaits Senate Health & Welfare Committee scheduling.

Health Insurance

- **HB 291 by Rep. Stephanie Berault (R-Slidell)**
 - Proposes to prohibit any monetary reduction in the payment of a claim or the ability of a health insurance plan relative to suspending or terminating a provider agreement solely due to the network or participating status of another healthcare provider who provides healthcare services at the facility.
 - HB 291 has passed the House, has been reported favorably from Senate Insurance, and awaits scheduling in Senate Finance.

Health Insurance

- **SB 465 by Sen. Patrick McMath (R-Covington)**
 - Proposes to make changes in the health insurance prompt pay laws, as well as to shorten several payment timelines, require faster notice of pended claims, shorten recoupment timeframes, and include the Office of Group Benefits.
 - SB 465 was reported favorably from Senate Insurance and now awaits scheduling in Senate Finance.

Health Insurance

- **SB 363 by Sen. Regina Barrow (D-Baton Rouge)**
 - Proposes to prohibit health insurance issuers from forcing insured patients to accept a lower level of care than what their treating provider determines is necessary when such substitution is based mainly on cost-containment or utilization management criteria.
 - The proposed legislation defines “lower level of care” as any service or setting that provides less intensive treatment, monitoring, supervision, or therapeutic intervention than recommended by the treating provider.
 - SB 363 was reported favorably from Senate Insurance and awaits consideration by the full Senate.

Medical Debt

- **SB 414 by Sen. Kirk Talbot (R-River Ridge)**
 - Proposes to prohibit “medical creditors,” including hospitals, from engaging in specified collection activities to recover medical debt.
 - Proposes to cap interest at no more than 2% and to limit wage garnishment and liens on a primary residence and vehicle.
 - Proposes to create a right of action and AG enforcement provisions.
 - SB 414 was voluntarily deferred in its initial scheduled hearing and awaits further committee scheduling.

Hospital Price Transparency

- **HB 946 by Rep. Mandie Landry (D-New Orleans)**
 - Proposes to require LDH to compile a dataset of information reported by hospitals through federal regulation requirements, as well as post those found to not be in material compliance.
 - Proposes to prohibit such hospitals from initiating or pursuing a collection action against a patient or guarantor, as well as to create a right of action against the hospital.
 - SB 946 was voluntarily deferred in its initial scheduled hearing and awaits further committee scheduling.

Criminal Background Checks

- **SCR 3 by Sen. Brach Myers (R-Lafayette)**
 - Suspends recent rule change by the Office of State Police that requires a fingerprint to be obtained in order to return criminal history information through a criminal background check.
 - SCR 3 awaits final passage in the House.

Criminal Background Checks

- **HB 414 by Rep. Emily Chenevert (R-Baton Rouge)**
 - Limits the definition of “non-licensed person” for purposes of the requirement for a background check for employment.
 - Expands the list of crimes that preclude employment to include convictions from other states for offenses that occur in another state or a federal offense when it would be substantially similar to the Louisiana offense.
 - Allows hospitals to utilize public-record based background checks in lieu of criminal history record checks from law enforcement.
 - HB 414 awaits scheduling in the Senate Health & Welfare Committee.

Workers' Compensation

- **SB 408 by Sen. Brach Myers (R-Lafayette)**
 - Proposes to create a Workers' Compensation All Payor Database.
 - Proposes to create a process to revise the professional fee schedule and hospital services to the 75th percentile of paid claims.
 - Proposes to require all payors to accept electronic claims, as well as to include provisions aimed at reducing litigation and expediting claim payments.
 - SB 408 was reported favorably from the Senate Labor & Industrial and Senate Finance committees and now awaits debate in the full Senate.

Workers' Compensation

- **HB 819 by Rep. Raymond Crews (R-Bossier City)**
 - Proposes to require the Office of Workers' Compensation to use the ODG Medical Treatment Guidelines by MCG.
 - HB 819 is scheduled to be heard by the House Labor & Industrial Committee.

Behavioral Health

- **HB 1030 by Rep. Annie Spell (R-Lafayette)**

- Proposes to authorize an institution for mental diseases to furnish transportation services using vehicles owned, leased, or otherwise controlled by the institution or through an arrangement with a transportation provider under contract with the institution for the limited purpose of furnishing transportation services for its own Medicaid beneficiaries who are patients or residents of the institution.
- HB 1030 has passed the House and awaits hearing in the Senate Health & Welfare Committee.

State Budget / Growth Limit

- **HB 646 by Rep. Beau Beaulieu (R-New Iberia)**
 - Constitutional amendment that proposes to limit the amount of state general fund that may be appropriated in a fiscal year.
 - HB 646 has been reported favorably from the Appropriations and Civil Law & Procedure committees and awaits debate by the full House.
- **HB 824 by Rep. Beau Beaulieu (R-New Iberia)**
 - Companion bill to HB 646 that would establish the growth limit formula.
 - HB 824 has been reported favorably from Appropriations and awaits debate by the full House.

State Updates

- Medicaid Reimbursement
- Rural Health Transformation Program
- LDH Quality Initiatives
- OBBBA (RTF, Work Requirements, Eligibility, etc.)

Ongoing Federal Issues

- Site-Neutral: OPPS rulemaking, continued congressional interest, MedPAC recommendations
- 340B: CMS Acquisition Cost Survey, HRSA RFI
- Medicare Advantage: Denials, administrative burden, other challenges
- Medicaid Directed Payments: WFTC-related preliminary guidance and anticipated rulemaking
- Affordability: Ongoing multi-front political interest and hearings
- Price Transparency: CY 26 modifications, ongoing multi-front interest

Thank You!

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