

New Laws from Regular Session of the 2026 Louisiana Legislature

HB 106 V. Cox, III [R-85, Gretna]
Prohibits day care facilities from providing a child with melatonin without parental approval.

05-22-2026 Signed by Governor as **Act No. 286**; effective 08-01-2026.

This act amended the criminal code, within the chapter relative to health of minors, to add a new law prohibiting any person from providing a child with a melatonin sleep aid without prior written consent of the child's parent or legal guardian. The penalty for violation includes a fine of not more than one thousand dollars or imprisonment for not more than six months, or both.

HB 152 S. Mack [R-95, Livingston]
Adds certain substances to the Uniform Controlled Dangerous Substances Law.

05-11-2026 Signed by Governor as **Act No. 58**; effective 08-01-2026.

This act amended the controlled substance law by adding 13 opiates to Schedule I, consistent with their addition to the federal list of controlled substances. This act will be added to the next edition of Louisiana Pharmacy Laws & Rules.

HB 475 S. Berault [R-76, Slidell]
Requires a healthcare provider to obtain a patient's consent prior to recording a medical visit.

06-02-2026 Signed by Governor as **Act No. 649**; effective 08-01-2026.

This act amended the introductory part of Title 37, which includes all the healthcare provider practice acts. The act requires any healthcare professional licensed by Title 37 to verbally disclose the use of any recording device, software, or service to a patient before recording any part of an appointment or treatment to be transcribed by artificial intelligence. The act subjects any healthcare professional who violates this provision to disciplinary action by his licensing board but shall be immune from civil liability in the absence of gross negligence or willful misconduct.

HB 557 J. DeWitt [R-25, Tioga]
Provides relative to long-term care pharmacy.

05-29-2026 Signed by Governor as **Act No. 557**; effective 08-01-2026.

This act added a new Part VIII to the pharmacy practice act relative to long-term care pharmacy. The act defines a long-term care pharmacy as one serving residents of a long-term care facility as defined in the Older Americans Act [42 USC 3002(35)] and has an NPI associated with taxonomy code 3336L0003X, or any equivalent or successor classification recognized by federal healthcare authorities. This act will be added to the next edition of Louisiana Pharmacy Laws & Rules.

HB 568 G. Firment [R-22, Pollock]

Provides relative to penalty enhancements for violations of drug-free zones.

05-22-2026 Signed by Governor as **Act No. 305**; effective 08-01-2026.

This act amended the controlled substance law, more specifically the provisions relating to violations of controlled substance laws within drug-free zones. The act increased the current penalties for violations of controlled substance laws while smoking, vaping, or otherwise abusing any controlled substance while on any property used for school purposes by any school, within 2,000 feet of such property, or while on a school bus. The enhanced penalty provides for incarceration of not more than one year and a fine of not more than one thousand dollars. This act will be added to the next edition of Louisiana Pharmacy Laws & Rules.

HB 578 M. Johnson [R-27, Pineville]

Provides for the Restoring Biological Truth Act.

06-08-2026 Signed by Governor as **Act No. 814**; effective 08-01-2026.

This 57-page act amended all state laws as well as all civil and criminal procedure codes, changing every reference to “gender” to “sex”. Among the laws amended is a section within the pharmacy practice act, more specifically the section defining the membership of the pharmacy board. This act will be added to the next edition of Louisiana Pharmacy Laws & Rules.

HB 779 A. Freeman [D-98, New Orleans]

Provides relative to expedited partner therapy.

05-29-2026 Signed by Governor as **Act No. 567**; effective 08-01-2026.

This act amended the public health law, more specifically the provisions related to expedited partner therapy. The law previously limited expedited partner therapy to people exposed to gonorrhea or chlamydia. This act extended eligibility to people exposed to trichomoniasis or other sexually associated infections as determined by the state health department. The act requires the health department to create a list of any additional sexually associated infections that are eligible for expedited partner therapy. Pharmacists who reasonably and in good faith dispense drugs in accordance with this law shall not be subject to criminal or civil liability or be deemed to have engaged in unprofessional conduct. This act will be added to the next edition of Louisiana Pharmacy Laws & Rules.

HB 907 D. Miller [D-40, Opelousas]

Provides civil and criminal immunity for the distribution or use of naloxone and other opioid antagonists beyond their shelf-life end date.

05-15-2026 Signed by Governor as **Act No. 183**; effective 05-15-2026.

This act amended the controlled substance law, more specifically the sections relative to the distribution of naloxone and other opioid antagonists. The act created a new section limiting civil or criminal liability for any licensed healthcare practitioner who prescribes, dispenses, distributes, or furnishes naloxone or another opioid antagonist solely on the basis that the labeled shelf-life end date for such product had passed. The

limitation of liability is removed in the case of gross negligence or willful or wanton misconduct. State-licensed practitioners shall not be subject to disciplinary action from their licensing board for actions in compliance with this law. However, federally certified healthcare providers, entities and facilities shall comply with federal rules prohibiting such use of products beyond their shelf-life end dates. This act will be added to the next edition of Louisiana Pharmacy Laws & Rules.

HB 930 K. Coates [R-73, Ponchatoula]

Eliminates the requirement for the Louisiana Department of Health to register cosmetic products.

05-29-2026 Signed by Governor as **Act No. 573**; effective 05-29-2026.

This act amended the food, drug, and cosmetic law by enacting a new section recognizing cottage cosmetic facilities and exempting them from licensing requirements and payment of any fees to the state health department. The act removes the requirement for the state health department to register any cosmetic products. The act provides that facilities which sell cosmetic products directly to consumers shall be regulated in accordance with the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act including the Modernization of Cosmetic Regulation Act of 2022 and are not subject to the facility permitting and inspection requirements of the state food, drug, and cosmetic law. In addition, nothing in the act shall be construed to exempt any facility from applicable state and local sales and use tax laws, including registration requirements. This act will be added to the next edition of Louisiana Pharmacy Laws & Rules.

HB 962 D. Miller [D-40, Opelousas]

Provides relative to reconstitution of medications for intravenous therapy.

05-22-2026 Signed by Governor as **Act No. 329**; effective 08-01-2026.

This act amended the nursing practice law to specifically indicate that a registered nurse may execute preparation of medication, mixing, reconstitution, or similar acts for immediate administration when carrying out the orders of an authorized prescriber.

HB 1049 C. Owen [R-30, Rosepine]

Provides relative to public meetings.

06-08-2026 Signed by Governor as **Act No. 867**; effective 08-01-2026.

This act amended the open meetings law. The act amended the section requiring written notice of public meetings by specifying the notice shall be posted in a manner in which the notice may be read by the public. The act also amended the section relative to meeting minutes by adding a provision requiring the provision of draft minutes to the members of the public body at least five business days prior to the meeting at which the minutes will be considered for approval.

HB 1155 R. Carter [D-72, Greensburg]

Provides for the use of nitrous oxide by physicians during medical procedures.

06-01-2026 Signed by Governor as **Act No. 707**; effective 08-01-2026.

This act amended the medical practice law to authorize the use of nitrous oxide by physicians during minor office procedures according to rules and guidelines to be

promulgated by the medical board.

HB 1160 M. Echols [R-14, Monroe]

Provides relative to rural physician licenses.

06-09-2026 Signed by Governor as **Act No. 879**; effective 08-01-2026.

This act amended the medical practice law to provide for the licensure of certain internationally educated physicians. The act requires the medical board to issue a restricted rural physician license to graduates of foreign medical schools who have completed medical education substantially equivalent to an allopathic or osteopathic medical education and met other requirements. The holder of such license shall practice only in rural or other underserved areas in the state or in a facility or clinic approved by the state health department or the board. The holder shall practice at least two years under medical supervision. Following at least five years of continuous practice with the restricted license, the physician may obtain a full unrestricted license provided the applicant meets criteria specified in the act.

SB 30 P. McMath [R-11, Covington]

Provides relative to telehealth.

05-22-2026 Signed by Governor as **Act No. 345**; effective 05-22-2026.

This act amended the telehealth access law by prohibiting the medical and nursing board from adopting or enforcing any rule or policy that prohibits any of their licensed healthcare providers from using telehealth to evaluate, diagnose, or treat obesity or provide weight management services, provided the healthcare provider conducts a synchronous interaction with the patient and acts within the scope of his license and in accordance with the applicable standard of care. This act will be added to the next edition of Louisiana Pharmacy Laws & Rules.

SB 43 P. McMath [R-11, Covington]

Provides relative to psychedelic-assisted therapy.

06-21-2026 Became **Act No. 956** without Governor's signature;
Effective 08-01-2026.

This act amended the mental health law, to authorize the state health department to establish a psychedelic-assisted therapy program. The act provides for clinical studies in academic health centers, patient eligibility, and reporting, as well as revenue retention and protection of intellectual property rights for state-funded research. Among other definitions, psychedelic medication is defined as ibogaine, ibogaine-based therapeutics, ibogaine analogs, MDMA, psilocybin, psilocybin-based therapeutics, and mechanistically similar analogs. The act authorizes the study of such medications for the treatment of opioid use disorders, co-occurring substance use disorders, and treatment-resistant neurological or mental health conditions. The act authorizes the use of opioid settlement funds for such clinical studies, as well as funding from any other federal sources.

SB 45 W. Wheat [R-37, Ponchatoula]

Provides relative to hospice care.

05-29-2026 Signed by Governor as **Act No. 453**; effective 05-29-2026.

This act amended the hospice licensing law, to authorize exemptions to licensure requirements for certain non-profit organizations that provide gratuitous end-of-life care and do not receive any payments from Medicare, Medicaid, or other public or private health insurance.

SB 57 P. McMath [R-11, Covington]

Provides relative to nutrition.

06-01-2026 Signed by Governor as **Act No. 735**; effective 01-01-2028.

This act amended the food, drug and cosmetic law, more specifically the food safety provisions. In particular, the act amended the new section of law created by Act 463 of the 2025 Regular Session which is scheduled to become effective on January 1, 2028. That 2025 law requires the disclosure of 44 specifically listed harmful ingredients when present in any food offered for sale in the state. That 2025 law currently provides for certain exemptions including any drug regulated by the federal FDA or dietary supplement regulated under the Dietary Supplement Health & Education Act. This act adds an additional exemption for foods for special dietary use as defined in 21 CFR 105. This act clarifies the disclosure requirements in the original act are applicable only to certain foods and beverages where the federal FDA requires such ingredients to be listed on labels. This act also removes one of the original 44 listed ingredients, a sweetener, acesulfame potassium. This act will be added to the next edition of Louisiana Pharmacy Laws & Rules.

SB 195 B. Myers [R-23, Lafayette]

Provides relative to the administration of medications.

05-15-2026 Signed by Governor as **Act No. 252**; effective 08-01-2026.

This act amended the public health law, more specifically the chapter relative to emergency medical service personnel. The act authorizes licensed emergency medical technicians, licensed advanced emergency medical technicians, and licensed paramedics to administer patient-carried, time-critical prescription medications (limited to intranasal, intravenous, and intramuscular dosage forms) to patients with rare diseases, chronic illnesses, and special medical needs at the patient's request in accordance with protocols to be developed by the state emergency medical services commission. The act provides that authorized providers who administer such medications in compliance with the act shall be immune from civil liability, criminal prosecution, or disciplinary or other adverse action under any professional licensing law or any outcomes resulting from such medication administration, unless personal injury results from the gross negligence or willful or wanton misconduct of the person administering the medication.

SB 250 P. McMath [R-11, Covington]

Provides relative to comprehensive weight management services.

06-02-2026 Signed by Governor as **Act No. 749**; effective 08-01-2026.

This act amended the public employee health insurance law (State Employees Group Benefit Program), to require that program to offer enrollment in a comprehensive weight management program. The program shall include FDA-approved medications,

metabolic health therapies compounded in compliance with 21 USC 353a, as well as other services. Enrollees shall pay the total premium cost as well as the total cost of any FDA-approved medications acquired through the program.

SB 253 P. McMath [R-11, Covington]

Provides relative to peptides.

05-22-2026 Signed by Governor as **Act No. 374**; effective 08-01-2026.

This act amended the introductory chapter of Title 37 which contains all healthcare provider practice acts. The act indicates that no healthcare licensing board may prohibit a healthcare provider with prescriptive authority from providing patients with peptides shipped from an FDA-registered 503-B facility that complies with 21 USC 353b or a 503-A compounding pharmacy that complies with 21 USC 353a and applicable USP-NF chapters. In addition, no licensing board may prohibit a Louisiana-licensed pharmacist in a state-permitted pharmacy from compounding and dispensing peptides as long as that pharmacist complies with 21 USC 353a and applicable USP-NF chapters. This act will be added to the next edition of Louisiana Pharmacy Laws & Rules.

SB 270 K. Jackson-Andrews [D-34, Monroe]

Provides for access to medical marijuana for terminally ill patients in a healthcare facility.

06-01-2026 Became **Act No. 602** without Governor's signature; effective 08-01-2026.

This act amended the therapeutic marijuana law to enact a new section relative to the use of medical marijuana for terminally ill patients in a healthcare facility as defined by R.S. 40:2006(A). That definition includes 19 different entities such as hospitals and nursing homes; however, this act specifically excludes any freestanding or distinct part of a hospital providing behavioral health services as well as any emergency or outpatient department of a hospital. The facility shall permit a terminally ill patient in possession of medical marijuana to consume their own product while a patient is in the facility. There are provisions for exemption when federal agencies notify facilities or initiate actions against facilities related to the use of medical marijuana. This act will be added to the next edition of Louisiana Pharmacy Laws & Rules.

SB 304 R. Edmonds [R-6, Baton Rouge]

Provides for accreditation of public colleges and universities.

05-29-2026 Signed by Governor as **Act No. 486**; effective 05-29-2026.

This act amended the education law, to add authority to the Board of Regents to set policy relative to accreditation of all public postsecondary institutions. The act also enacted a new chapter of education law related to accreditation of public postsecondary institutions. The new chapter requires coordination of accreditation policies between the Board of Regents, the management boards for all four public postsecondary educational institutions in the state, as well as all the public postsecondary institutions – for both institutional accreditation as well as programmatic accreditation. With respect to programmatic accreditation, the Board of Regents shall identify a list of professional schools that require specialized accreditation and a corresponding list of recognized accreditors. Institutions and programs seeking accreditation shall seek an accreditor

that prioritizes all of the following: (1) promotes credential success and workforce outcomes; (2) promotes educational quality and affordability; (3) promotes financial stability of the public postsecondary institution; and (4) ensures appropriate accountability through a rigorous annual review of the facility. Finally, the act directs the Louisiana State Law Institute to delete “Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges” in all sections and codes of state law and replace with “accreditor recognized by the United States Department of Education.”

SB 401 K. Talbot [R-10, River Ridge]

Provides for a Prescription Drug Affordability Board that sets the maximum cost for each prescription drug sold in Louisiana.

06-12-2026 Signed by Governor as **Act No. 915**; effective 01-01-2027.

This act amended the insurance law to create a new entity – the Prescription Drug Affordability Board (PDAB). The act indicated the legislative finding that containing healthcare costs requires containing prescription drug costs, and further, to contain prescription drug costs, it is essential to understand the drivers of those costs. The act established the 10-member board, which includes the president of the pharmacy board or his designee, set qualifications for such members as well as prohibited affiliations (employee, board member, or consultant for manufacturer, PBM, HMO, MCO, insurance carrier, drug distributor, or related trade association). The PDAB shall develop a list of critical prescription drugs available in Louisiana for which there is a substantial public interest in understanding the development of pricing for the drugs. The board shall then solicit relevant information from the manufacturers of the drugs on the PDAB’s list. The act provides for the exclusion of confidential information from the public records law and requires the insurance department and PDAB to maintain confidentiality of such trade secret information. The act requires the PDAB to publish information of non-confidential information. The act requires the PDAB to review and update its list of critical prescription drugs at least once every three years. In summary, the act requires the collection of information. The legislature, in some future act, may grant additional authority to the PDAB to determine a maximum price for which state funds may be used to purchase certain prescription drugs.