

REGULAR SESSION, 2026

BY: _____

HOUSE BILL NO. _____

DIGEST

[Author's Name] HB No. _____ Abstract: Removes the authority of local governing authorities to grant exclusive or monopoly rights to ambulance service providers; authorizes competitive contracting while preserving local regulatory control and antitrust immunity. Present law (R.S. 33:4791.1) authorizes parishes and municipalities to regulate privately operated ambulance services and specifically grants the power to "displace competition and provide a monopoly public service" and to grant exclusive access to public dispatch systems. Proposed law repeals the monopoly authorization, removes provisions allowing exclusive access to 911 systems, and clarifies that local governments may contract with one or more providers through competitive procurement. Provides that existing contracts remain in effect until expiration but may not be renewed on an exclusive basis. Retains local authority to regulate response times, licensing, and service standards. Preserves state-action antitrust immunity and maintains home rule authority except where inconsistent with the prohibition on monopolies. Effective date: January 1, 2027.

AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 33:4791.1, relative to ambulance service regulation; to remove the authority of local governing authorities to grant exclusive or monopoly rights; to provide for competitive procurement, transition, and related matters.

1 Section 1. R.S. 33:4791.1 is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

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3 §4791.1. Regulation of ambulance services

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5 A. Any parish or municipality may regulate privately operated ambulance services.

6 Such regulation may include but shall not be limited to:

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8 (1) Licensing requirements.

9 (2) Response time standards.

10 (3) Equipment and personnel standards.

11 (4) Fees, rates, or charges with approval of the governing authority.

12 ~~(5) The power to displace competition and provide a monopoly public service.~~

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14 B. In exercising such regulation, a parish or municipality may:

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16 (1) Provide ambulance services directly, through a public agency, or by contract
17 with one or more private entities.

18 (2) Establish service districts and require uniform coverage.

19 (3) Contract with one or more private providers through competitive procurement.

20 ~~(5) Limit or provide exclusive access to 911 or other public dispatch systems.~~

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22 C. Nothing in this Section shall be construed to impair existing contracts lawfully
23 entered into prior to the effective date of this Act. Such contracts shall remain
24 in effect until expiration, but may not be renewed or extended on an exclusive bas
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26 D. Any action taken by a parish or municipality pursuant to this Section shall consti
27 state action for purposes of antitrust immunity under federal law.

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29 E. Nothing herein shall preempt home rule charters, provided that no charter provisio
30 shall authorize the granting of exclusive or monopoly rights inconsistent with thi
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32 Section 2. This Act shall become effective on January 1, 2027.