



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 118

February Session, 2016

Substitute Senate Bill No. 70

Senate, March 22, 2016

The Committee on Public Health reported through SEN. GERRATANA of the 6th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING TELEHEALTH PROVIDERS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subdivision (11) of subsection (a) of section 19a-906 of the
2 2016 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following
3 is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2016*):

4 (11) "Telehealth provider" means any physician licensed under
5 chapter 370, physical therapist licensed under chapter 376,
6 chiropractor licensed under chapter 372, naturopath licensed under
7 chapter 373, podiatrist licensed under chapter 375, occupational
8 therapist licensed under chapter 376a, optometrist licensed under
9 chapter 380, advanced practice registered nurse licensed under chapter
10 378, physician assistant licensed under chapter 370, psychologist
11 licensed under chapter 383, marital and family therapist licensed
12 under chapter 383a, clinical social worker or master social worker
13 licensed under chapter 383b, alcohol and drug counselor licensed
14 under chapter 376b₂, professional counselor licensed under chapter
15 383c₂ [or] dietitian-nutritionist certified under chapter 384b, speech and

16 language pathologist licensed under chapter 399, respiratory care
17 practitioner licensed under chapter 381a or audiologist licensed under
18 chapter 397a, who is providing health care or other health services
19 through the use of telehealth within such person's scope of practice
20 and in accordance with the standard of care applicable to the
21 profession.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2016	19a-906(a)(11)

PH *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note***State Impact:*** None***Municipal Impact:*** None***Explanation***

The bill, which adds licensed speech and language pathologists, respiratory care practitioners, and audiologists to the list of health care providers authorized to provide health care services using telehealth, does not result in a fiscal impact to the state, or municipalities.

The Out Years***State Impact:*** None***Municipal Impact:*** None

OLR Bill Analysis**sSB 70*****AN ACT CONCERNING TELEHEALTH PROVIDERS.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill adds licensed speech and language pathologists, respiratory care practitioners, and audiologists to the list of health care providers authorized to provide health care services using telehealth. Under the bill, they must provide telehealth services within their profession's scope of practice and standard of care, just as other telehealth providers must do under existing law.

Existing law already allows the following health care providers to provide healthcare services using telehealth: licensed physicians, advanced practice registered nurses, physician assistants, occupational or physical therapists, naturopaths, chiropractors, optometrists, podiatrists, psychologists, marital and family therapists, clinical or master social workers, alcohol and drug counselors, professional counselors, and certified dietician-nutritionists.

By law, "telehealth" means delivering healthcare services through information and communication technologies to facilitate the diagnosis, consultation, treatment, education, care management, and self-management of a patient's physical and mental health.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2016

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 26 Nay 0 (03/07/2016)