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## **OLR Bill Analysis**

**sSB 1052 (File 549, as amended by Senate "A")\***

### ***AN ACT EXPANDING MEDICAID COVERAGE OF TELEHEALTH SERVICES.***

#### **SUMMARY**

Current law requires the Department of Social Services (DSS) to provide telehealth coverage, within available state and federal resources, for categories of health care services that the commissioner determines are (1) clinically appropriate, (2) cost effective, and (3) likely to expand access. This bill removes the availability of state and federal resources as a condition for providing such telehealth coverage. It specifies that there must be a clinical need for telehealth in determining health care categories likely to expand access for Medicaid recipients.

Under the bill, the DSS commissioner may provide coverage of telehealth services regardless of any state regulations that would otherwise prohibit it. DSS may also implement policies and procedures to carry out the bill's provisions while adopting them in regulations. The department may do this only if it posts the policies and procedures on the state eRegulations system before adoption.

This bill requires the commissioner to submit a report to the Human Services and Public Health committees by August 1, 2020, on 1) the health care categories utilizing telehealth services, 2) the cities or regions where the services are being offered, and 3) any cost savings realized by the state.

\*Senate Amendment "A" replaces the underlying bill, which required the DSS commissioner to expand Medicaid-covered telehealth services and provide statewide coverage by July 1, 2020.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2019

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Human Services Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 18 Nay 0 (03/21/2019)