AN ACT EXPANDING MEDICAID COVERAGE OF TELEHEALTH SERVICES.

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

Section 1. (NEW) (Effective from passage) (a) For purposes of this section, (1) "telehealth" has the same meaning as provided in section 19a-906 of the general statutes and includes telemental health; (2) "telemental health" means the provision of remote mental health care services using modalities that include, but are not limited to, (A) videoconferencing, (B) computer programs, and (C) mobile applications by a variety of mental health care providers operating within their scopes of practice; (3) (A) "asynchronous", (B) "originating site", (C) "remote patient monitoring", (D) "store and forward transfer", and (E) "synchronous" have the same meaning as provided in section 19a-906 of the general statutes; and (4) "electronic consultations" means the sharing of information and advice electronically by providers.

(b) The Commissioner of Social Services shall expand coverage of telehealth services under the medical assistance program. Notwithstanding any provision of section 19a-906 of the general statutes, the commissioner shall provide Medicaid coverage state wide.
not later than July 1, 2020, for (1) asynchronous transmission of health information, (2) electronic consultations, (3) remote patient monitoring, (4) store and forward transfer of a patient's medical information, and (5) synchronous forms of telehealth services whenever such coverage meets federal Medicaid requirements for efficiency, economy and quality of care.

(c) On and after July 1, 2019, the commissioner shall phase in statewide coverage of telehealth services beginning with (1) chronic conditions, including, but not limited to, diabetes and cardiac conditions, (2) behavioral disorders, including, but not limited to, substance abuse, and (3) mental health disorders. The commissioner shall establish requirements for telehealth providers to ensure privacy of patient information and consent for telehealth services. The commissioner may limit coverage of telehealth services to originating sites and licensed providers approved by the commissioner.

(d) The commissioner may seek federal approval for a Medicaid state plan amendment, if necessary, to establish rates of reimbursement for telehealth services not already included under other rates of reimbursement in the Medicaid state plan. The commissioner shall seek federal approval of any Medicaid waiver or other program authorized by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services that would allow for (1) a more expeditious expansion of telehealth services, or (2) a higher rate of federal reimbursement for such services. The submission of any such Medicaid state plan amendment or waiver shall be in accordance with the provisions of section 17b-8 of the general statutes.

Sec. 2. Section 17b-245e of the general statutes is repealed (Effective from passage)

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>from passage</th>
<th>New section</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sec. 1</td>
<td>from passage</td>
<td>New section</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sec. 2</td>
<td>from passage</td>
<td>17b-245e</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Statement of Purpose:**
To require the Commissioner of Social Services to expand Medicaid coverage of telehealth services state wide whenever such coverage meets federal Medicaid requirements for efficiency, economy and quality of care.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]