



General Assembly

January Session, 2019

Raised Bill No. 1052

LCO No. 5307



Referred to Committee on HUMAN SERVICES

Introduced by:
(HS)

AN ACT EXPANDING MEDICAID COVERAGE OF TELEHEALTH SERVICES.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) For purposes of this
2 section, (1) "telehealth" has the same meaning as provided in section
3 19a-906 of the general statutes and includes telemental health; (2)
4 "telemental health" means the provision of remote mental health care
5 services using modalities that include, but are not limited to, (A)
6 videoconferencing, (B) computer programs, and (C) mobile
7 applications by a variety of mental health care providers operating
8 within their scopes of practice; (3) (A) "asynchronous", (B) "originating
9 site", (C) "remote patient monitoring", (D) "store and forward transfer",
10 and (E) "synchronous" have the same meaning as provided in section
11 19a-906 of the general statutes; and (4) "electronic consultations" means
12 the sharing of information and advice electronically by providers.

13 (b) The Commissioner of Social Services shall expand coverage of
14 telehealth services under the medical assistance program.
15 Notwithstanding any provision of section 19a-906 of the general
16 statutes, the commissioner shall provide Medicaid coverage state wide

17 not later than July 1, 2020, for (1) asynchronous transmission of health
18 information, (2) electronic consultations, (3) remote patient monitoring,
19 (4) store and forward transfer of a patient's medical information, and
20 (5) synchronous forms of telehealth services whenever such coverage
21 meets federal Medicaid requirements for efficiency, economy and
22 quality of care.

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

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

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

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	17b-245e

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.]