



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" means the remote delivery of physical and
3 mental health care services to facilitate the diagnosis, treatment,
4 education, care management and self-management of a patient via
5 information and communication technologies that may include, but
6 are not limited to, (A) videoconferencing, (B) computer programs, and
7 (C) mobile cellular phone applications; (2) (A) "asynchronous", (B)
8 "originating site", (C) "remote patient monitoring", (D) "store and
9 forward transfer", and (E) "synchronous" have the same meaning as
10 provided in section 19a-906 of the general statutes; and (3) "electronic
11 consultations" means the sharing of information and advice
12 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 (A) ensure
 29 privacy of patient information and (B) obtain consent for telehealth
 30 services. The commissioner may limit coverage of telehealth services to
 31 originating sites and licensed providers approved by the
 32 commissioner.

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

44 Sec. 2. Section 17b-245e of the general statutes is repealed. (*Effective*
 45 *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>	Repealer section

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Section 1(a), the definitions of "telehealth" and "telemental health" were combined and redrafted for clarity and accuracy and subdivisions were redesignated accordingly; in Section 1(c), "(A)" was added before "ensure" and "(B) obtain" was added before "consent" for clarity and consistency with drafting conventions.

HS *Joint Favorable Subst. -LCO*