



General Assembly

Amendment

January Session, 2019

LCO No. 7555



Offered by:

SEN. MOORE, 22nd Dist.
REP. ABERCROMBIE, 83rd Dist.
SEN. LOGAN, 17th Dist.

To: Subst. Senate Bill No. 1052

File No. 549

Cal. No. 247

"AN ACT EXPANDING MEDICAID COVERAGE OF TELEHEALTH SERVICES."

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and substitute the
2 following in lieu thereof:

3 "Section 1. Section 17b-245e of the general statutes is repealed and
4 the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2019*):

5 (a) For purposes of this section: (1) "Commissioner" means the
6 Commissioner of Social Services; (2) "department" means the
7 Department of Social Services; and (3) "telehealth" has the same
8 meaning as provided in section 19a-906.

9 (b) The department shall [, within available state and federal
10 resources,] provide coverage under the Medicaid program for
11 telehealth services for categories of health care services that the
12 commissioner determines are (1) clinically appropriate to be provided

13 by means of telehealth, (2) cost effective for the state, and (3) likely to
14 expand access to medically necessary services where there is a clinical
15 need for those services to be provided by telehealth or for Medicaid
16 recipients for whom accessing appropriate health care services poses
17 an undue hardship. The commissioner may provide coverage of
18 telehealth services pursuant to this section notwithstanding any
19 provision of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies that would
20 otherwise prohibit coverage of telehealth services. The commissioner
21 may implement policies and procedures as necessary to carry out the
22 provisions of this section while in the process of adopting the policies
23 and procedures as regulations, provided notice of intent to adopt the
24 regulations is published in accordance with the provisions of section
25 17b-10.

26 (c) The commissioner shall seek any federal waiver or amend the
27 Medicaid state plan as necessary to attempt to secure federal
28 reimbursement for the costs of providing such coverage under the
29 Medicaid program. An application for such waiver or proposed
30 amendment to the Medicaid state plan shall be submitted to the joint
31 standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of
32 matters relating to human services and appropriations and the budgets
33 of state agencies as required under the provisions of section 17b-8.

34 (d) Not later than [January 1, 2018] August 1, 2020, the
35 commissioner shall submit a report, in accordance with the provisions
36 of section 11-4a, to the joint standing committees of the General
37 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to human services and
38 public health [concerning the telehealth services provided to Medicaid
39 recipients, if any, in accordance with the provisions of this section] on
40 (1) the categories of health care services in which the department is
41 utilizing telehealth services, (2) in what cities or regions of the state
42 such services are being offered, and (3) any cost savings realized by the
43 state by providing telehealth services."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2019</i>	17b-245e