# Second Regular Session Seventy-fourth General Assembly STATE OF COLORADO

# PREAMENDED

This Unofficial Version Includes Committee Amendments Not Yet Adopted on Second Reading

LLS NO. 24-0981.01 Josh Schultz x5486

SENATE BILL 24-141

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Van Winkle and Michaelson Jenet,

(None),

### HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Senate Committees Health & Human Services Finance Appropriations **House Committees** 

# A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING OUT-OF-STATE HEALTH-CARE WORKERS PROVIDING

102 HEALTH-CARE SERVICES THROUGH TELEHEALTH TO PATIENTS

103 LOCATED IN COLORADO.

#### **Bill Summary**

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <u>http://leg.colorado.gov</u>.)

The bill allows a health-care provider (applicant) who possesses a license, certificate, registration, or other approval as a health-care provider in another state (out-of-state credential) to provide health-care services through telehealth to patients located in Colorado if the applicant registers with the regulator that regulates the health-care services the applicant will provide (regulator). An applicant is eligible for registration if:

- The applicant submits an application in a manner prescribed by the division of professions and occupations in the department of regulatory agencies (division) and pays the applicable fee;
- The applicant possesses an out-of-state credential issued by a governmental authority in another state, the District of Columbia, or a possession or territory of the United States that is active and unencumbered and that entitles the applicant to perform health-care services that are substantially similar to health-care services that may be performed by a licensee, certificate holder, or registrant in this state;
- The applicant designates an agent upon whom service of process may be made in Colorado; and
- The applicant has not been subject to any disciplinary action relating to the applicant's out-of-state credential during the 5-year period immediately preceding the submission of the applicant's application that has resulted in the applicant's out-of-state credential being limited, suspended, or revoked.

An applicant who has been registered to provide health-care services through telehealth to patients located in Colorado (registered provider) shall:

- Notify the applicable regulator of restrictions placed on the registered provider's out-of-state credential in any state or jurisdiction or of any disciplinary action taken or pending against the registered provider in any state or jurisdiction;
- Maintain and have in effect a form of financial responsibility that covers services provided to patients in this state as required by the applicable regulator; and
- Not open an office in this state and shall not provide in-person health-care services to patients located in this state unless the health-care provider obtains the license, certification, or registration that the applicable regulator requires for the performance of the relevant health-care services in this state.

The bill also allows the division or the regulator to take disciplinary action against a registered provider under specified conditions.

1 Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:

1	SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, add 12-30-123 as
2	<u>follows:</u>
3	<u> 12-30-123. Out-of-state telehealth providers - registration -</u>
4	<u>financial responsibility - discipline - emergency protocol - disclosures</u>
5	<u>- prescriptions - rules - applicability - definitions. (1) As USED IN THIS</u>
6	SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:
7	(a) "Applicant" means an individual who performs
8	HEALTH-CARE SERVICES IN ANOTHER STATE AND APPLIES TO THE DIVISION
9	TO PROVIDE TELEHEALTH SERVICES IN THIS STATE.
10	(b) "DISTANT SITE" HAS THE MEANING SET FORTH IN SECTION
11	<u>10-16-123 (4)(a).</u>
12	(c) "ORIGINATING SITE" HAS THE MEANING SET FORTH IN SECTION
13	<u>10-16-123 (4)(b).</u>
14	(d) "OUT-OF-STATE CREDENTIAL" MEANS A LICENSE, CERTIFICATE,
15	REGISTRATION, OR OTHER APPROVAL AS A HEALTH-CARE PROVIDER IN
16	ANOTHER STATE.
17	(e) "REGISTERED PROVIDER" MEANS A HEALTH-CARE PROVIDER
18	REGISTERED TO PROVIDE TELEHEALTH SERVICES IN THIS STATE PURSUANT
19	TO SUBSECTION (3) OF THIS SECTION.
20	(f) "Store-and-forward transfer" has the meaning set
21	<u>FORTH IN SECTION 10-16-123 (4)(c).</u>
22	(g) "TELEHEALTH" MEANS THE DELIVERY OF MEDICAL SERVICES
23	THROUGH TECHNOLOGIES THAT ARE USED IN A MANNER THAT IS
24	COMPLIANT WITH THE FEDERAL "HEALTH INSURANCE PORTABILITY AND
25	Accountability Act of 1996", Pub.L. 104-191, including
26	INFORMATION, ELECTRONIC, AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES,
27	REMOTE MONITORING TECHNOLOGIES, AND STORE-AND-FORWARD

1	TRANSFERS, TO FACILITATE THE ASSESSMENT, DIAGNOSIS, CONSULTATION,
2	OR TREATMENT OF A PATIENT WHILE THE PATIENT IS LOCATED AT AN
3	ORIGINATING SITE AND THE PERSON WHO PROVIDES THE SERVICES IS
4	LOCATED AT A DISTANT SITE.
5	(2) On and after January 1, 2026, an applicant who
6	POSSESSES AN OUT-OF-STATE CREDENTIAL MAY PROVIDE HEALTH-CARE
7	SERVICES THROUGH TELEHEALTH TO PATIENTS LOCATED IN THIS STATE IF
8	THE APPLICANT IS REGISTERED WITH A REGULATOR, AS APPLICABLE TO THE
9	APPLICANT'S PRACTICE, AND PROVIDES HEALTH-CARE SERVICES WITHIN
10	THE SCOPE OF PRACTICE ESTABLISHED UNDER THE LAWS AND RULES OF
11	THIS STATE THAT APPLY TO THE APPLICANT'S PRACTICE.
12	(3) A REGULATOR MAY REGISTER AN APPLICANT WHO DOES NOT
13	POSSESS A LICENSE, CERTIFICATE, OR REGISTRATION IN THIS STATE AS A
14	REGISTERED PROVIDER UNDER THIS SECTION IF THE APPLICANT SATISFIES
15	ALL OF THE FOLLOWING:
16	(a) The applicant submits an application on a form
17	PRESCRIBED BY THE DIVISION AND PAYS THE APPLICABLE FEE ESTABLISHED
18	BY THE DIVISION PURSUANT TO SECTION 12-20-105;
19	(b) The applicant possesses an out-of-state credential
20	ISSUED BY A GOVERNMENTAL AUTHORITY IN ANOTHER STATE, THE
21	DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, OR A POSSESSION OR TERRITORY OF THE UNITED
22	STATES AND THE CREDENTIAL IS ACTIVE; UNENCUMBERED; HAS
23	EDUCATIONAL AND SUPERVISORY STANDARDS EQUIVALENT TO OR
24	EXCEEDING THE EDUCATIONAL AND SUPERVISORY STANDARDS REQUIRED
25	FOR THE EQUIVALENT CREDENTIAL, LICENSE, CERTIFICATE, OR
26	REGISTRATION IN THIS STATE OR THE INTERSTATE COMPACT LICENSE FOR
27	THE APPLICABLE CREDENTIAL TYPE; AND ENTITLES THE APPLICANT TO

1	PERFORM HEALTH-CARE SERVICES THAT ARE THE SAME AS OR EQUIVALENT
2	TO HEALTH-CARE SERVICES THAT MAY BE PERFORMED BY A LICENSEE,
3	CERTIFICATE HOLDER, OR REGISTRANT IN THIS STATE;
4	(c) THE APPLICANT HAS NOT BEEN SUBJECT TO ANY DISCIPLINARY
5	ACTION RESULTING IN A LIMITATION, SUSPENSION, OR REVOCATION OF THE
6	APPLICANT'S OUT-OF-STATE CREDENTIAL DURING THE FIVE-YEAR PERIOD
7	IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING THE SUBMISSION OF THE APPLICANT'S
8	<u>APPLICATION PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION <math>(3)(a)</math> OF THIS SECTION, UNLESS</u>
9	THE DISCIPLINARY ACTION PERTAINS TO AN ACTION, BEHAVIOR, OR
10	TREATMENT PERMITTED UNDER COLORADO LAW;
11	(d) The applicant demonstrates passage of a jurisprudence
12	EXAMINATION ADMINISTERED BY THE DIVISION IF PASSAGE OF A
13	JURISPRUDENCE EXAMINATION IS REQUIRED FOR SUBSTANTIALLY SIMILAR
14	CREDENTIALING AS A LICENSEE, CERTIFICATE HOLDER, OR REGISTRANT IN
15	<u>THIS STATE;</u>
16	(e) THE APPLICANT DESIGNATES AN AGENT UPON WHOM SERVICE
17	OF PROCESS MAY BE MADE IN THIS STATE ON A FORM PRESCRIBED BY THE
18	DIVISION; AND
19	(f) The applicant demonstrates to the division that the
20	<u>APPLICANT IS IN COMPLIANCE WITH SUBSECTION (5) OF THIS SECTION.</u>
21	(4) (a) A REGISTERED PROVIDER SHALL NOTIFY THE APPLICABLE
22	REGULATOR OF:
23	(I) RESTRICTIONS PLACED ON THE REGISTERED PROVIDER'S
24	OUT-OF-STATE CREDENTIAL IN ANY STATE OR JURISDICTION;
25	(II) ANY DISCIPLINARY ACTION TAKEN OR PENDING AGAINST THE
26	REGISTERED PROVIDER IN ANY STATE OR JURISDICTION; AND
27	(III) ANY FINAL JUDGMENT AGAINST, SETTLEMENT ENTERED INTO

1	BY, OR ARBITRATION AWARD PAID ON BEHALF OF THE REGISTERED
2	PROVIDER FOR MALPRACTICE.
3	(b) The registered provider shall provide notification
4	PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (4) WITHIN FIVE BUSINESS DAYS AFTER
5	THE RESTRICTION IS PLACED OR DISCIPLINARY ACTION IS INITIATED OR
6	TAKEN.
7	(5) A REGISTERED PROVIDER SHALL MAINTAIN THE METHOD AND
8	AMOUNT OF FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY THAT COVERS SERVICES PROVIDED
9	TO PATIENTS IN THIS STATE AS REQUIRED BY THE APPLICABLE REGULATOR.
10	(6) A REGISTERED PROVIDER PROVIDING HEALTH-CARE SERVICES
11	THROUGH TELEHEALTH TO A PATIENT LOCATED IN THIS STATE SHALL
12	PROVIDE HEALTH-CARE SERVICES IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE PROFESSIONAL
13	PRACTICE STANDARDS APPLICABLE TO A LICENSEE, CERTIFICATE HOLDER,
14	OR REGISTRANT WHO PROVIDES COMPARABLE IN-PERSON HEALTH-CARE
15	SERVICES IN THIS STATE. PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE STANDARDS AND LAWS
16	APPLICABLE TO THE PROVISION OF IN-PERSON HEALTH-CARE SERVICES IN
17	THIS STATE, INCLUDING STANDARDS AND LAWS RELATING TO PRESCRIBING
18	MEDICATION OR TREATMENT, IDENTITY VERIFICATION, DOCUMENTATION,
19	INFORMED CONSENT, CONFIDENTIALITY, DISCLOSURES, PRIVACY, AND
20	SECURITY, APPLY TO THE PROVISION OF HEALTH-CARE SERVICES THROUGH
21	<u>TELEHEALTH IN COLORADO.</u>
22	(7) (a) A registered provider who provides telehealth
23	SERVICES TO A PATIENT SHALL:
24	(I) PROVIDE THE PATIENT WITH GUIDANCE ON APPROPRIATE
25	FOLLOW-UP CARE AS REQUIRED BY THE LAWS, RULES, AND STANDARD OF
26	<u>CARE FOR COLORADO;</u>
27	(II) IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY SITUATION, MAKE A GOOD

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1	FAITH EFFORT TO:
2	(A) DIRECTLY CONTACT AND COORDINATE WITH EMERGENCY
3	SERVICES LOCATED NEAR THE ORIGINATING SITE; OR
4	(B) IF THE URGENT, EMERGENT, OR EMERGENCY SITUATION IS
5	RELATED TO THE PATIENT'S MENTAL HEALTH OR A SUBSTANCE USE
6	CONDITION, FACILITATE CONTACT WITH THE APPROPRIATE LOCAL MENTAL
7	AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES TO INCLUDE LOCAL CRISIS SERVICES,
8	SUCH AS CRISIS STABILIZATION UNITS, CRISIS WALK-IN CENTERS, MOBILE
9	CRISIS RESPONSE SERVICES, AND WITHDRAWAL MANAGEMENT FACILITIES;
10	AND
11	(C) REMAIN ON A SYNCHRONOUS CONNECTION WITH THE PATIENT,
12	IF THE EMERGENCY ARISES DURING A SYNCHRONOUS CONNECTION, UNTIL
13	EMERGENCY SERVICES HAVE REACHED THE ORIGINATING SITE OR THE
14	SITUATION IS RESOLVED IN THE REGISTERED PROVIDER'S CLINICAL
15	JUDGMENT; AND
16	(III) MAINTAIN A WRITTEN EMERGENCY PROTOCOL THAT IS
17	<u>APPROPRIATE TO THE APPLICABLE STANDARD OF CARE FOR COLORADO.</u>
18	The written emergency protocol must include good faith
19	METHODS OF ACCOMPLISHING THE FOLLOWING:
20	(A) PROVIDING THE NAME AND LOCATION OF THE PATIENT TO
21	EMERGENCY SERVICES IN ORAL, WRITTEN, OR DIGITAL FORM;
22	(B) DETERMINING THE ORIGINATING SITE IF A PATIENT IS
23	UNAWARE OF THE LOCATION; AND
24	(C) PROVIDING THE CONTACT INFORMATION OF THE PATIENT TO
25	EMERGENCY SERVICES.
26	(b) A REGISTERED PROVIDER MUST MAINTAIN A CURRENT LIST OF
27	HOSPITALS LIRGENT CARE CENTERS OR CLINICS AND CRISIS PROVIDERS

27 HOSPITALS, URGENT CARE CENTERS OR CLINICS, AND CRISIS PROVIDERS,

1 SUCH AS CRISIS STABILIZATION UNITS, CRISIS WALK-IN CENTERS, MOBILE 2 CRISIS RESPONSE SERVICES, AND WITHDRAWAL MANAGEMENT FACILITIES, 3 IN THE AREA WHERE THE PATIENT RESIDES. 4 (8) (a) A REGISTERED PROVIDER SHALL NOT OPEN AN OFFICE IN 5 THIS STATE AND SHALL NOT PROVIDE IN-PERSON HEALTH-CARE SERVICES 6 TO PATIENTS LOCATED IN THIS STATE UNLESS THE REGISTERED PROVIDER 7 OBTAINS THE LICENSE, CERTIFICATION, OR REGISTRATION THAT THE 8 APPLICABLE REGULATOR REQUIRES FOR THE PERFORMANCE OF THE 9 RELEVANT HEALTH-CARE SERVICES IN THIS STATE. 10 (b) A REGISTERED PROVIDER PROVIDING TELEHEALTH SERVICES TO 11 A PATIENT IN THIS STATE SHALL DISCLOSE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION 12 TO THE PATIENT, AS APPLICABLE: 13 (I) THE LOCATION OF THE REGISTERED PROVIDER; AND 14 (II) THAT THE REGISTERED PROVIDER DOES NOT HAVE A PHYSICAL 15 LOCATION IN COLORADO. 16 (9) (a) THE DIVISION OR THE APPLICABLE REGULATOR MAY TAKE 17 DISCIPLINARY ACTION AGAINST A REGISTERED PROVIDER IF ANY OF THE 18 FOLLOWING APPLIES TO THE REGISTERED PROVIDER: 19 (I) THE REGISTERED PROVIDER FAILS TO NOTIFY THE REGULATOR 20 OF ANY ADVERSE ACTIONS TAKEN AGAINST THE REGISTERED PROVIDER'S 21 OUT-OF-STATE CREDENTIAL AS REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION (4) OF THIS 22 SECTION; 23 (II) THE REGISTERED PROVIDER HAS RESTRICTIONS PLACED ON THE 24 REGISTERED PROVIDER'S OUT-OF-STATE CREDENTIAL OR DISCIPLINARY 25 ACTION HAS BEEN COMMENCED AGAINST THE REGISTERED PROVIDER IN 26 ANY STATE OR JURISDICTION; 27 (III) THE REGISTERED PROVIDER VIOLATES ANY OF THE

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1 **REQUIREMENTS UNDER THIS SECTION; OR** 2 (IV)THE REGISTERED PROVIDER COMMITS AN ACT THAT 3 CONSTITUTES GROUNDS FOR DISCIPLINARY ACTION UNDER THE LAW 4 GOVERNING THE APPLICABLE PROFESSION IN COLORADO. 5 (b) THE DEPARTMENT OF REGULATORY AGENCIES MAY NOTIFY 6 OTHER STATES IN WHICH THE REGISTERED PROVIDER IS LICENSED, 7 REGISTERED, OR CERTIFIED TO PRACTICE OF ANY DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS 8 TAKEN AGAINST THE REGISTERED PROVIDER IN THIS STATE. 9 (c) IF A REGULATOR DETERMINES THAT A REGISTERED PROVIDER 10 HAS COMMITTED AN ACT OR ENGAGED IN CONDUCT THAT CONSTITUTES 11 GROUNDS FOR DISCIPLINE OR UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT UNDER THE LAW 12 GOVERNING THE APPLICABLE PROFESSION IN COLORADO, THE DIVISION OR 13 THE RELEVANT REGULATOR MAY TAKE DISCIPLINARY OR OTHER ACTION 14 PURSUANT TO SECTION 12-20-404. 15 (10) FOR A REGISTERED PROVIDER PROVIDING HEALTH-CARE 16 SERVICES THROUGH TELEHEALTH TO A PATIENT LOCATED IN THIS STATE, 17 THIS SECTION PROVIDES AN ALTERNATIVE TO LICENSURE, CERTIFICATION, 18 OR REGISTRATION THAT THE APPLICABLE REGULATOR REQUIRES FOR THE 19 PERFORMANCE OF THE RELEVANT HEALTH-CARE SERVICES IN THIS STATE, 20 AND A REGISTERED PROVIDER MUST OTHERWISE ADHERE TO THE LAWS 21 AND RULES THAT APPLY TO THE REGISTERED PROVIDER'S PRACTICE. 22 (11) A REGISTERED PROVIDER SHALL NOT PRESCRIBE A 23 CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 12-280-402 (1). 24 (12) ALL REGISTRATIONS ISSUED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION ARE 25 SUBJECT TO THE RENEWAL, EXPIRATION, REINSTATEMENT, AND 26 DELINQUENCY FEE PROVISIONS SPECIFIED IN SECTION 12-20-202.

27 (13) THE DIVISION MAY PROMULGATE RULES NECESSARY TO

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1	IMPLEMENT AND ADMINISTER THIS SECTION.
2	(14) A REGULATOR MAY PROMULGATE RULES NECESSARY TO
3	IMPLEMENT AND ADMINISTER THIS SECTION.
4	(15) ARTICLES 1 AND 20 OF THIS TITLE 12 AND THIS ARTICLE 30
5	APPLY, ACCORDING TO THEIR TERMS, TO THIS SECTION.
6	SECTION 2. Safety clause. The general assembly finds,
6 7	SECTION 2. Safety clause. The general assembly finds, determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
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7	determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate