

**Second Regular Session  
Seventy-second General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO**

**PREAMENDED**

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

LLS NO. 20-1260.01 Shelby Ross x4510

**SENATE BILL 20-212**

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**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Winter and Tate**, Crowder, Bridges, Cooke, Coram, Donovan, Fenberg, Fields, Garcia, Gardner, Ginal, Gonzales, Hansen, Hisey, Holbert, Lee, Lundeen, Moreno, Pettersen, Priola, Rankin, Sonnenberg, Story, Todd, Williams A., Woodward, Zenzinger

**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Lontine and Soper**, Landgraf, Will

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**Senate Committees**

State, Veterans, & Military Affairs  
Appropriations

**House Committees**

Health & Insurance  
Appropriations

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101     **CONCERNING REIMBURSEMENT FOR HEALTH CARE SERVICES**  
102             **PROVIDED THROUGH TELEHEALTH, AND, IN CONNECTION**  
103             **THEREWITH, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.**

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**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 <http://leg.colorado.gov>.)*

The bill prohibits a health insurance carrier from:

- !     Imposing specific requirements or limitations on the technologies used to deliver telehealth services;
- !     Requiring a covered person to have a previously established patient-provider relationship with a specific

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
*Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing statute.*  
*Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.*

SENATE  
3rd Reading Unamended  
June 9, 2020

SENATE  
Amended 2nd Reading  
June 8, 2020

provider in order to receive medically necessary telehealth services from the provider; or

- ! Imposing additional certification, location, or training requirements as a condition of reimbursement for telehealth services.

The bill specifies that, to the extent the state board of health adopts rules addressing supervision requirements for home care agencies, the rules must allow for supervision in person or by telemedicine or telehealth.

For purposes of the medicaid program, the bill:

- ! Clarifies the methods of communication that may be used for telemedicine;
- ! Requires the department of health care policy and financing to reimburse rural health clinics, the federal Indian health service, and federally qualified health centers for telemedicine services provided to medicaid recipients and to do so at the same rate as the department reimburses those services when provided in person; and
- ! Specifies that health care and mental health care services include physical therapy, occupational therapy, hospice care, home health care, and pediatric behavioral health care.

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

2 **SECTION 1. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly  
3 finds that:

4 (a) On March 27, 2020, the federal government enacted the  
5 "Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act" ("CARES Act"),  
6 Pub.L. 116-136, Stat. 281 (2020), pursuant to which Colorado received  
7 approximately \$1,674,000,000 from the federal coronavirus relief fund  
8 to use for necessary expenditures incurred due to the current COVID-19  
9 public health emergency;

10 (b) On May 18, 2020, the Colorado governor issued Executive  
11 Order 2020 D 070, transferring \$70,000,000 from the state "CARES Act"  
12 fund to the state general fund for eligible expenditures;

13 (c) The expenditures in this bill are considered an allowable use

1 under the federal "CARES Act" and are necessary to respond to the  
2 COVID-19 public health emergency; and

3 (d) The expenditures in this bill were not accounted for in the  
4 Colorado state budget most recently approved as of March 27, 2020, and  
5 all of the expenses will be incurred on or before December 30, 2020.

6 (2) The general assembly further finds and declares that:

7 (a) The expenditures in this bill will be used to protect the health  
8 and safety of both caregivers and patients by ensuring that access to  
9 telehealth services are available to all Coloradans;

10 (b) Due to the unanticipated effects of COVID-19, many patients  
11 have been unable or unwilling to seek out care through in-person settings;

12 (c) The need to access health care services is compounded by the  
13 challenges associated with COVID-19, as Coloradans are experiencing  
14 the negative effects the pandemic has on physical, mental, and emotional  
15 health that will extend into future years; and

16 (d) Access to telehealth is vital to ensuring the continuity of  
17 physical, mental, and behavioral health care for Coloradans during the  
18 COVID-19 pandemic and responding to any future outbreaks of the virus.

19 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 10-16-123, **amend**  
20 (2)(e) and (4)(e); **repeal** \_\_\_ (4)(d); and **add** (4)(b.5) as follows:

21 **10-16-123. Telehealth - definitions.** (2) (e) A carrier shall not:

22 (I) Impose an annual dollar maximum on coverage for health care  
23 services covered under the health benefit plan that are delivered through  
24 telehealth, other than an annual dollar maximum that applies to the same  
25 services when performed by the same provider through in-person care;

26 (II) IMPOSE SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS OR LIMITATIONS ON THE  
27 HIPAA-COMPLIANT TECHNOLOGIES THAT A PROVIDER USES TO DELIVER

1 TELEHEALTH SERVICES, INCLUDING LIMITATIONS ON AUDIO OR LIVE VIDEO  
2 TECHNOLOGIES;

3 (III) REQUIRE A COVERED PERSON TO HAVE A PREVIOUSLY  
4 ESTABLISHED PATIENT-PROVIDER RELATIONSHIP WITH A SPECIFIC  
5 PROVIDER IN ORDER FOR THE COVERED PERSON TO RECEIVE MEDICALLY  
6 NECESSARY TELEHEALTH SERVICES FROM THE PROVIDER; OR

7 (IV) IMPOSE ADDITIONAL CERTIFICATION, LOCATION, OR TRAINING  
8 REQUIREMENTS ON A PROVIDER AS A CONDITION OF REIMBURSING THE  
9 PROVIDER FOR PROVIDING HEALTH CARE SERVICES THROUGH TELEHEALTH.

10 (4) As used in this section:

11 (b.5) "REMOTE MONITORING" MEANS THE USE OF SYNCHRONOUS  
12 OR ASYNCHRONOUS TECHNOLOGIES TO COLLECT OR MONITOR MEDICAL  
13 AND OTHER FORMS OF HEALTH DATA FOR INDIVIDUALS AT AN ORIGINATING  
14 SITE AND ELECTRONICALLY TRANSMIT THAT INFORMATION TO PROVIDERS  
15 AT A DISTANT SITE SO PROVIDERS CAN ASSESS, DIAGNOSE, CONSULT,  
16 TREAT, EDUCATE, PROVIDE CARE MANAGEMENT, SUGGEST  
17 SELF-MANAGEMENT, OR MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING A  
18 COVERED PERSON'S HEALTH CARE.

19

20 (d) ~~"Synchronous interaction" means a real-time interaction~~  
21 ~~between a patient located at the originating site and a provider located at~~  
22 ~~a distant site.~~

23 (e) (†) "Telehealth" means a mode of delivery of health care  
24 services through HIPAA-COMPLIANT telecommunications systems,  
25 including information, electronic, and communication technologies,  
26 REMOTE MONITORING TECHNOLOGIES, AND STORE-AND-FORWARD  
27 TRANSFERS, to facilitate the assessment, diagnosis, consultation,

1 treatment, education, care management, or self-management of a covered  
2 person's health care while the covered person is located at an originating  
3 site and the provider is located at a distant site. The term includes:

4 ~~(A) Synchronous interactions;~~

5 ~~(B) Store-and-forward transfers; and~~

6 ~~(C) Services provided through HIPAA-compliant interactive~~  
7 ~~audio-visual communication or the use of a HIPAA-compliant application~~  
8 ~~via a cellular telephone.~~

9 ~~(H) "Telehealth" does not include the delivery of health care~~  
10 ~~services via:~~

11 ~~(A) Voice-only telephone communication or text messaging;~~

12 ~~(B) Facsimile machine; or~~

13 ~~(C) Electronic mail systems.~~

14 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 25-27.5-104, **add**  
15 (1.5) as follows:

16 **25-27.5-104. Minimum standards for home care agencies and**  
17 **home care placement agencies - rules - advisory committee.** (1.5) TO  
18 THE EXTENT THE STATE BOARD RULES ADOPTED PURSUANT TO  
19 SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS SECTION ADDRESS SUPERVISION REQUIREMENTS  
20 FOR HOME CARE AGENCIES, THE RULES MUST ALLOW FOR SUPERVISION IN  
21 PERSON OR BY TELEMEDICINE OR TELEHEALTH. ANY RULES ADOPTED BY  
22 THE STATE BOARD PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (1.5) SHALL BE IN  
23 CONFORMITY WITH APPLICABLE FEDERAL LAW AND MUST TAKE INTO  
24 CONSIDERATION THE APPROPRIATENESS, SUITABILITY, AND NECESSITY OF  
25 THE METHOD OF SUPERVISION PERMITTED.

26 **SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 25-54-102, **amend**  
27 (2)(a) as follows:

1           **25-54-102. Statewide system for advance directives created -**  
2 **rules.** (2) (a) Upon the request of an individual, or authorized surrogate  
3 decision-maker, a qualified provider that has an agreement with the health  
4 information organization network as required under the federal "Health  
5 Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996", Pub.L. 104-191,  
6 as amended, may upload the individual's advance health care directive to  
7 the system. The advance health care directive shall only be uploaded to  
8 the system by a qualified provider after the individual or authorized  
9 surrogate decision-maker has consulted with the qualified provider in  
10 person or through telehealth, as defined in ~~section 10-16-123 (4)(e)(f)~~  
11 SECTION 10-16-123 (4)(e). A qualified provider ~~who~~ THAT uploads an  
12 advance health care directive to the system is not subject to civil or  
13 criminal liability or regulatory sanction for action taken in accordance  
14 with this subsection (2).

15           **SECTION 5.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 25.5-5-320, **amend**  
16 (1) introductory portion; and **add** (2.1), (2.5), (6), and (7) as follows:

17           **25.5-5-320. Telemedicine - reimbursement - disclosure**  
18 **statement - definition - repeal.** (1) On or after July 1, 2006, in-person  
19 contact between a health care or mental health care provider and a patient  
20 ~~shall~~ IS not ~~be~~ required under the state's medical assistance program for  
21 health care or mental health care services delivered through telemedicine  
22 that are otherwise eligible for reimbursement under the program. **ANY**  
23 **HEALTH CARE OR MENTAL HEALTH CARE SERVICE DELIVERED THROUGH**  
24 **TELEMEDICINE MUST MEET THE SAME STANDARD OF CARE AS AN**  
25 **IN-PERSON VISIT.** **TELEMEDICINE MAY BE PROVIDED THROUGH**  
26 **INTERACTIVE AUDIO, INTERACTIVE VIDEO, OR INTERACTIVE DATA**  
27 **COMMUNICATION, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO TELEPHONE, RELAY**

1 CALLS, INTERACTIVE AUDIOVISUAL MODALITIES, AND LIVE CHAT, AS LONG  
2 AS THE TECHNOLOGIES ARE COMPLIANT WITH THE FEDERAL "HEALTH  
3 INSURANCE PORTABILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 1996" PUB.L.  
4 104-191, AS AMENDED. The HEALTH CARE OR MENTAL HEALTH CARE  
5 services ~~shall be~~ ARE subject to reimbursement policies developed  
6 pursuant to the medical assistance program. This section also applies to  
7 managed care organizations that contract with the state department  
8 pursuant to the statewide managed care system only to the extent that:

9 (2.1) [REDACTED] FOR THE PURPOSES OF REIMBURSEMENT FOR SERVICES  
10 PROVIDED BY HOME CARE AGENCIES, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 25-27.5-102  
11 (3), THE SERVICES MAY BE SUPERVISED THROUGH TELEMEDICINE OR  
12 TELEHEALTH.

13 [REDACTED]  
14 (2.5) (a) [REDACTED] A TELEMEDICINE SERVICE MEETS THE DEFINITION OF  
15 A FACE-TO-FACE ENCOUNTER FOR A RURAL HEALTH CLINIC, AS DEFINED IN  
16 THE FEDERAL "SOCIAL SECURITY ACT", 42 U.S.C. SEC. 1395x (aa)(2). THE  
17 REIMBURSEMENT RATE FOR A TELEMEDICINE SERVICE PROVIDED BY A  
18 RURAL HEALTH CLINIC MUST BE SET AT A RATE THAT IS NO LESS THAN THE  
19 MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM RATE FOR A COMPARABLE FACE-TO-FACE  
20 ENCOUNTER OR VISIT.

21 (b) A TELEMEDICINE SERVICE MEETS THE DEFINITION OF A  
22 FACE-TO-FACE ENCOUNTER FOR A MEDICAL CARE PROGRAM OF THE  
23 FEDERAL INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE. THE REIMBURSEMENT RATE FOR A  
24 TELEMEDICINE SERVICE PROVIDED BY A MEDICAL CARE PROGRAM OF THE  
25 FEDERAL INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE MUST BE SET AT A RATE THAT IS NO  
26 LESS THAN THE MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM RATE FOR A COMPARABLE  
27 FACE-TO-FACE ENCOUNTER OR VISIT.

1 (c) A TELEMEDICINE SERVICE MEETS THE DEFINITION OF A  
2 FACE-TO-FACE ENCOUNTER FOR A FEDERALLY QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTER,  
3 AS DEFINED IN THE FEDERAL "SOCIAL SECURITY ACT", 42 U.S.C. SEC.  
4 1395x (aa)(4). THE REIMBURSEMENT RATE FOR A TELEMEDICINE SERVICE  
5 PROVIDED BY A FEDERALLY QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTER MUST BE SET AT  
6 A RATE THAT IS NO LESS THAN THE MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM RATE  
7 FOR A COMPARABLE FACE-TO-FACE ENCOUNTER OR VISIT.

8  
9 (6) (a) THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL POST TELEMEDICINE  
10 UTILIZATION DATA TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S WEBSITE NO LATER THAN  
11 THIRTY DAYS AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SUBSECTION (6) AND  
12 SHALL UPDATE THE DATA EVERY OTHER MONTH THROUGH STATE FISCAL  
13 YEAR 2021-22. FOR STATE FISCAL YEARS 2020-21 AND 2021-22, THE  
14 STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL COMPILE, SUMMARIZE, AND REPORT ON THE  
15 UTILIZATION DATA TO THE PUBLIC THROUGH THE ANNUAL HEARING,  
16 PURSUANT TO THE "STATE MEASUREMENT FOR ACCOUNTABLE,  
17 RESPONSIVE, AND TRANSPARENT (SMART) GOVERNMENT ACT", PART 2  
18 OF ARTICLE 7 OF TITLE 2.

19 (b) THIS SUBSECTION (6) IS REPEALED JULY 1, 2022.

20 (7) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, "HEALTH CARE OR MENTAL  
21 HEALTH CARE SERVICES" INCLUDES SPEECH THERAPY, PHYSICAL THERAPY,  
22 OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY, HOSPICE CARE, HOME HEALTH CARE, AND  
23 PEDIATRIC BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE.

24  
25 SECTION 6. Appropriation. For the period from July 1, 2020,  
26 through December 30, 2020, \$5,068,381 is appropriated to the department  
27 of health care policy and financing. This appropriation is from the care



1 subfund in the general fund. To implement this act, the department may  
2 use this appropriation for telemedicine expansion services. This  
3 appropriation must not be used for the state-share of medicaid services.

4 **SECTION 7. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,  
5 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate  
6 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety.