
Health Care & Wellness Committee

SSB 5325

Brief Description: Concerning telemedicine.

Sponsors: Senate Committee on Health & Long Term Care (originally sponsored by Senators Muzzall, Cleveland, Dozier, Frockt, Keiser, Randall, Rivers and Robinson).

<p>Brief Summary of Substitute Bill</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Removes the age limitation on telemedicine reimbursement requirements applicable to behavioral health administrative services organizations.

Hearing Date: 3/22/21

Staff: Jim Morishima (786-7191).

Background:

A behavioral health administrative services organization (BH-ASO) is an organization that provides behavioral health services in a defined regional service area under contract with the state. A BH-ASO must reimburse providers for behavioral health care services provided through telemedicine or store and forward technology if:

- the services are covered as in-person services by the BH-ASO or Medicaid managed care organization in which the covered person is enrolled; and
- the services are medically necessary.

Telemedicine reimbursement requirements related to BH-ASOs are applicable only to covered persons under 18 years of age.

Summary of Substitute Bill:

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

The age limitation on telemedicine reimbursement by behavioral health administrative services organizations is removed, making the requirements applicable to behavioral health services provided to covered persons of all ages.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.