

# HOUSE BILL REPORT

## SSB 5325

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**As Passed House:**

April 6, 2021

**Title:** An act relating to telemedicine.

**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).

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:**

Health Care & Wellness: 3/22/21, 3/25/21 [DP].

**Floor Activity:**

Passed House: 4/6/21, 98-0.

**Brief Summary of Substitute Bill**

- Removes the age limitation on telemedicine reimbursement requirements applicable to behavioral health administrative services organizations.

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### HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH CARE & WELLNESS

**Majority Report:** Do pass. Signed by 15 members: Representatives Cody, Chair; Bateman, Vice Chair; Schmick, Ranking Minority Member; Caldier, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Bronoske, Davis, Harris, Macri, Maycumber, Riccelli, Rude, Simmons, Stonier, Tharinger and Ybarra.

**Staff:** Jim Morishima (786-7191).

**Background:**

A behavioral health administrative services organization (BH-ASO) is an organization that

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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 Bill:**

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.

**Staff Summary of Public Testimony:**

(In support) This bill makes sure that telemedicine requirements are applicable to persons over the age of 18. It is a great fix to an issue that was brought up earlier in session.

(Opposed) None.

**Persons Testifying:** Representative Marcus Riccelli.

**Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying:** None.