

HOUSE BILL REPORT

SSB 5325

As Reported by House Committee On:
Health Care & Wellness

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].

Brief Summary of Substitute Bill

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

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 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

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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:

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.