

130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2021

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| H.P. 227 | House of Representatives, February 8, 2021 |

An Act Regarding Insurance Coverage for Telehealth Services

Received by the Clerk of the House on February 4, 2021. Referred to the Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

R(+ B. Hunt

ROBERT B. HUNT Clerk

Presented by Representative PERRY of Calais. Cosponsored by Representatives: HYMANSON of York, TEPLER of Topsham.

| 1 | Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows: |
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| 2 | Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §3173-H, sub-§6 is enacted to read: |
| 3 4 5 | 6. Consent for telehealth and telemonitoring services. A patient may provide verbal, electronic or written consent for telehealth and telemonitoring services under this section. |
| 6 7 | Sec. 2. 24-A MRSA §4316, sub-§1, ¶C, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 289, §2, is amended to read: |
| 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 | C. "Telehealth," as it pertains to the delivery of health care services, means the use of interactive real-time visual and audio or other electronic media for the purpose of consultation and education concerning and diagnosis, treatment, care management and self-management of an enrollee's physical and mental health and includes real-time interaction between the enrollee and the telehealth provider, synchronous encounters, asynchronous encounters, store and forward transfers and telemonitoring. "Telehealth" does not include the use of audio-only telephone, facsimile machine, e-mail or texting includes telephonic services. |
| 16 | Sec. 3. 24-A MRSA §4316, sub-§5, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 289, §2, is repealed. |
| 17 | SUMMARY |
| 18 19 20 21 22 23 | This bill amends the law that requires health insurance carriers to cover telehealth services to provide that health care services provided through telephone communication are considered telehealth services, thus requiring a carrier to cover health care services provided through telephone communication regardless of whether or not other telehealth services are available. It also allows patients receiving MaineCare health services to provide verbal, electronic or written consent to telehealth and telemonitoring services. |