

Legislative Analysis



REQUIRE TELEMEDICINE COVERAGE

Phone: (517) 373-8080
<http://www.house.mi.gov/hfa>

House Bill 4131 (H-2) as adopted and amended
Sponsor: Rep. Tullio Liberati, Jr.
Committee: Insurance and Financial Services
Complete to 11-9-23

Analysis available at
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

SUMMARY:

House Bill 4131 would amend the Insurance Code to prohibit insurers in Michigan from requiring a health care professional to provide services for a patient through *telemedicine* unless the services are contractually required per the terms of a contract between the insurer and an affiliated provider or a third-party vendor for telemedicine-first or telemedicine-only products, and clinically appropriate as determined by the health care professional.

Telemedicine means the use of an electronic media to link patients with health care professionals in different locations. To be considered telemedicine, the health care professional must be able to examine the patient via a Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)–compliant, secure interactive audio or video, or both, telecommunications system, or through the use of store and forward online messaging.

The act currently prohibits any insurer that delivers, issues for delivery, or renews a health insurance policy in Michigan from requiring face-to-face contact between a health care professional and patient for services that the insurer determines are appropriately provided through telemedicine.

MCL 500.3476

FISCAL IMPACT:

The bill would have no fiscal impact on the state or local units of government.

POSITIONS:

Representatives of the following entities testified in support of the bill (10-5-23):

- Michigan State Medical Society
- Guidance Center
- CNS Healthcare

The following entities indicated support for the bill:

- Michigan Behavior Analysis Providers Association and Hope Network (10-5-23)
- Michigan Federation for Children and Families (10-5-23)
- Michigan Academy of Physician Assistants (10-5-23)
- Michigan Health and Hospital Association (10-26-23)
- Disability Rights Michigan (10-5-23)
- Michigan Council for Maternal and Child Health (10-5-23)

- Ascension (10-5-23)
- Michigan Academy of Family Physicians (10-5-23)
- Community Mental Health Association of Michigan (10-5-23)
- American Physical Therapy Association – Michigan Chapter (10-5-23)
- Michigan Behavioral Health and Wellness (10-5-23)
- Gateway Pediatric Therapy, LLC (10-5-23)
- MetroEHS Pediatric Therapy and MIBAP (10-5-23)
- Spectrum Autism Center (10-5-23)
- Wedgwood Christian Services (10-5-23)
- Michigan League for Public Policy (10-26-23)
- Oakland Community Health Network (10-5-23)

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan indicated opposition to the bill. (10-26-23)

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■ This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan House Fiscal Agency staff for use by House members in their deliberations and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.