

Legislative Analysis



TELEMEDICINE COVERAGE TO BE SAME AS COVERAGE FOR IN-PERSON SERVICES

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

House Bill 4579 as introduced
Sponsor: Rep. Natalie Price

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

House Bill 4580 as introduced
Sponsor: Rep. Felicia Brabec

Committee: Health Policy
Complete to 10-4-23

SUMMARY:

House Bills 4579 and 4580 would amend the Insurance Code and the Social Welfare Act, respectively, to require an insurer or the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), as applicable, to provide the same coverage for services provided through *telemedicine* as if the service were in person (i.e., involved face-to-face contact between the health care professional and the patient).

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. (This definition applies to both bills.)

Under House Bill 4579, this requirement would apply to health insurance policies that are delivered, executed, issued, amended, adjusted, or renewed in Michigan (or outside of Michigan if covering Michigan residents) beginning on the date the bill takes effect.

Under House Bill 4580, this requirement would apply to the Medicaid program and the Healthy Michigan program beginning on the date the bill takes effect.

HB 4579: MCL 500.3476
HB 4580: MCL 400.105h

FISCAL IMPACT:

House Bill 4579 would not have any direct fiscal impact on state or local government units.

House Bill 4580 would likely have no fiscal impact on the Department of Health and Human Services or the state's Medicaid program. The bill would codify current telehealth

policies that were established¹ prior to the ending of the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Legislative Analyst: Rick Yuille
Fiscal Analysts: Marcus Coffin
Kent Dell

■ 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.

¹ <https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/-/media/Project/Websites/mdhhs/Assistance-Programs/Medicaid-BPHASA/2023-Bulletins/Final-Bulletin-MMP-23-10-Telemedicine.pdf>