

# 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 reported from committee**  
**Sponsor: Rep. Natalie Price**  
**Committee: Health Policy**  
**Complete to 11-9-23**

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

### SUMMARY:

House Bill 4579 would amend the Insurance Code to require an insurer 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 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.

MCL 500.3476

### FISCAL IMPACT:

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

### 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)
- Michigan Society of Addiction Medicine (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.