



Senate Fiscal Agency
P.O. Box 30036
Lansing, Michigan 48909-7536



Telephone: (517) 373-5383
Fax: (517) 373-1986

House Bill 4579 (Substitute S-4 as reported)
Sponsor: Representative Natalie Price
House Committee: Health Policy
Senate Committee: Health Policy

CONTENT

The bill would amend Chapter 34 (Disability Insurance Policies) of the Insurance Code to require an insurer to provide at least the same coverage for a service that was provided through telemedicine as if that service involved face-to-face contact between the health care professional and the patient.

MCL 500.3476

BRIEF RATIONALE

The COVID-19 pandemic expanded the use of telemedicine services. According to testimony, some patients, including those who live in a rural area, are physically disabled, or are veterans use telemedicine services at higher rates; however, now that the Federal public health emergency for COVID-19 is over, there are gaps in insurance coverage for telemedicine services. Some people believe that losing the expansion in health coverage that telemedicine facilitated could lead to health consequences for residents of Michigan, and so requiring parity between in-person health services and telemedicine services has been recommended.

PREVIOUS LEGISLATION

(This section does not provide a comprehensive account of previous legislative efforts on this subject matter.)

House Bill 4579 is a reintroduction of Senate Bill 898 from the 2019-2020 Legislative Session.

Legislative Analyst: Alex Krabill

FISCAL IMPACT

The bill would have no fiscal impact on State or local government.

Date Completed: 3-14-24

Fiscal Analyst: Nathan Leaman