

HCS HB 1617 -- TELEHEALTH (Barnes (60))

COMMITTEE OF ORIGIN: Standing Committee on Health and Mental Health Policy

This bill specifies that the Department of Social Services shall reimburse providers for services provided through telehealth if the providers can ensure that services are rendered meeting the standard of care that would be expected if the services were rendered in person. Telehealth services are the delivery of health care using technology to communicate with a health care provider who is at a different location than the patient. Generally, reimbursement for telehealth services must be made in the same way as reimbursement for in-person contact. The Department of Health and Senior Services cannot make rules or restrictions on providing services via telehealth as long as the provider can ensure services are rendered meeting the standard of care that would otherwise be expected should such services be provided in person.

The bill specifies that before telehealth services can be provided in a school, the parent or guardian must give authorization.

This bill clarifies that current statute authorizing a health care provider to provide telehealth services shall not be construed to prohibit a health carrier from reimbursing non-clinical staff for services otherwise allowed by law.

This bill repeals several existing provisions relating to telehealth services within MO HealthNet.