

1 S.88

2 Introduced by Senators Lyons, Ashe, Baruth, Bray, Collins, Fox, McCormack,

3 Mullin, Pollina, and Zuckerman

4 Referred to Committee on Health and Welfare

5 Date: February 8, 2013

6 Subject: Health; health insurance; telemedicine

7 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to remove a

8 requirement that telemedicine services be delivered in a health care facility in

9 order to qualify for health insurance coverage.

10 An act relating to telemedicine services delivered outside a health care
11 facility

12 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

13 ~~Sec. 1. 8 V.S.A. § 4100k is amended to read:~~

14 § 4100k. ~~COVER~~AGE FOR TELEMEDICINE SERVICES

15 (a) All health insurance plans in this state shall provide coverage for

16 ~~telemedicine~~ services delivered to a patient ~~in a health care facility~~ by

17 telemedicine to the same extent that the services would be covered if they were

18 provided through in-person consultation.

19 ~~§ 4100k. COVER~~AGE FOR TELEMEDICINE SERVICES

1 ~~Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE~~

2 ~~This act shall take effect on October 1, 2013 and shall apply to all health~~
3 ~~insurance plans on and after October 1, 2013 on such date as a health insurer~~
4 ~~issues, offers, or renews the health insurance plan, but in no event later than~~
5 ~~October 1, 2014.~~

Sec. 1. TELEMEDICINE PILOT PROJECTS

Notwithstanding 8 V.S.A. chapter 107, subchapter 14, the Department of Vermont Health Access and the Green Mountain Care Board shall consider implementation of one or more pilot projects using telemedicine in order to expand access to health care services in a cost-efficient manner as part of payment and delivery system reform. In designing pilot projects, the Department and Board shall consider the appropriate scope of services that should be provided through telemedicine outside of a health care facility, the potential costs and changes in access to those services relative to current service delivery, the possibility of equipping home health agency nurses with the tools needed to provide telemedicine services during home health visits, and safeguards to ensure quality of care, patient confidentiality, and information security needed for the pilot projects.

Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2013.