

S.88

Introduced by Senators Lyons, Ashe, Baruth, Bray, Collins, Fox, McCormack,
Mullin, Pollina, and Zuckerman

Referred to Committee on Health and Welfare

Date: February 8, 2013

Subject: Health; health insurance; telemedicine

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to remove a
requirement that telemedicine services be delivered in a health care facility in
order to qualify for health insurance coverage.

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

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

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

~~§ 4100k. COVERAGE FOR TELEMEDICINE SERVICES~~

~~(a) All health insurance plans in this state shall provide coverage for
telemedicine services delivered to a patient in a health care facility by
telemedicine to the same extent that the services would be covered if they were
provided through in-person consultation.~~

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~~Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE~~

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