

Summary of S.50, An act relating to insurance coverage for telemedicine services delivered in or outside a health care facility, as passed by Senate Health & Welfare

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This bill expands required health insurance coverage for telemedicine services to include services provided through telemedicine to a patient who is not in a health care facility setting. It prohibits health insurance plans from placing stricter limits on the number of telemedicine consultations a patient can receive than on the number of in-person visits. It adds a definition of “distant site” for the location of the telemedicine provider and of “originating site” for the location of the patient, which may include the patient’s home, school, or workplace. It also specifies the following types of health care providers for whom a health insurance plan must provide coverage when services are delivered through telemedicine:

- physicians (M.D.s) and osteopathic physicians
- naturopathic physicians
- advanced practice registered nurses
- physician assistants
- psychologists
- social workers
- alcohol and drug abuse counselors
- clinical mental health counselors
- marriage and family therapists
- psychoanalysts
- physical therapists
- occupational therapists
- speech-language pathologists
- dieticians