

1 Introduced by Committee on Health and Welfare

2 Date:

3 Subject: Health; health insurance; telehealth; telephone; store and forward

4 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to move up the
5 effective date for health insurance reimbursement for health care services
6 delivered by store-and-forward means. It would also direct the Department of
7 Financial Regulation to convene a working group to develop recommendations
8 regarding health insurance and Medicaid coverage of health care services
9 delivered by telephone after the COVID-19 state of emergency ends.

10 An act relating to access health care services delivered by telehealth and
11 telephone

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

13 Sec. 1. 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 91, Sec. 38 is amended to read:

14 Sec. 38. EFFECTIVE DATES

15 This act shall take effect on passage, except that:

16 (1) In Sec. 24, 8 V.S.A. § 4100k(e) (coverage of health care services
17 delivered by store-and-forward means) shall take effect on ~~January 1, 2021~~
18 May 1, 2020.

19 (2) Sec. 29 shall take effect on July 1, 2020.

20 (3) Secs. 32 and 33 shall take effect on March 31, 2021.

1 Sec. 2. COVERAGE FOR HEALTH CARE SERVICES DELIVERED BY
2 TELEPHONE; WORKING GROUP

3 (a) The Department of Financial Regulation shall convene a working group
4 to develop recommendations for health insurance and Medicaid coverage of
5 health care services delivered by telephone after the COVID-19 state of
6 emergency ends. The working group shall include representatives of the
7 Department of Vermont Health Access, health insurers, the Vermont Medical
8 Society, Bi-State Primary Care Association, the VNAs of Vermont, the
9 Vermont Association of Hospitals and Health Systems, the Office of the
10 Health Care Advocate, and other interested stakeholders.

11 (b) On or before December 1, 2020, the Department of Financial
12 Regulation shall provide to the House Committee on Health Care and the
13 Senate Committees on Health and Welfare and on Finance the working group's
14 recommendations for ongoing coverage of health care services delivered by
15 telephone.

16 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATES

17 (a) Notwithstanding 1 V.S.A. § 214, Sec. 1 (effective date for store and
18 forward) shall take effect on passage and shall apply retroactively to March 30,
19 2020.

20 (b) The remaining sections shall take effect on passage.