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**Act No. 107 (H.655). Health; professions and occupations; health care professionals; telehealth; licensure; registration; provisional licensure**

**An act relating to telehealth licensure and registration and to provisional licensure for professions regulated by the Office of Professional Regulation**

This act creates a telehealth licensure and registration system that allows a health care professional who is not otherwise licensed, certified, or registered to practice in Vermont but is licensed, certified, or registered in good standing in any other U.S. jurisdiction to obtain a telehealth license or registration from the Office of Professional Regulation (OPR) or Board of Medical Practice to provide health care services to a patient in Vermont using telehealth. A telehealth license allows the health care professional to deliver services by telehealth to not more than 20 unique patients located in Vermont during the two-year term of the license, which is renewable, and the telehealth license fee is 75 percent of the renewal fee for a full license to practice the profession. A telehealth registration allows the health care professional to deliver services by telehealth to not more than 10 unique patients located in Vermont during the 120-day term of the registration, which is not renewable; a health care professional may only obtain a telehealth registration once during a three-year period. The telehealth registration fee is the lesser of the application fee for a full license to practice the profession or 50 percent of the renewal fee for a full license to practice the profession.

The act specifies that a health care professional who wants to provide services to patients in Vermont using telehealth also continues to have the option to pursue a full license to practice the profession. If a health care professional holding a telehealth registration applies for a telehealth license or full license within three years following the effective date of the professional's telehealth registration, the amount paid for the telehealth registration will be credited and applied toward the amount of the fee for a telehealth license or a full license, as applicable. Similarly, if a health care professional holding a telehealth license applies for a full license while the professional's telehealth license is in effect, the amount paid for the telehealth license will be credited and applied toward the amount of the fee for a full license. The act appropriates \$360,000 to OPR to develop and implement the telehealth licensure and registration system.

The act also allows the Director of OPR to issue a 90-day provisional license in any field to individual who has completed an application for full licensure and whose eligibility for licensure is contingent upon acceptable verification of

licensure from another jurisdiction, whose eligibility for licensure is contingent upon completion of a background check, or who is an active-duty member of the U.S. Armed Forces assigned to duty in Vermont or the member's spouse. The provisional license is based on a voluntary agreement between the applicant and OPR to expedite the applicant's entry into the workforce in exchange for the applicant forgoing the regular procedural rights; the applicant's only remedy if aggrieved by a denial or withdrawal of a provisional license is to apply for a regular license through the usual process. The act allows the OPR Director to extend a provisional license beyond 90 days if the reason for issuing it has not been resolved.

Multiple effective dates, beginning on May 9, 2022