

1 TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

2 The Committee on Health Care to which was referred House Bill No. 104
3 entitled “An act relating to allowing certain licensed out-of-state mental health
4 professions to treat Vermont patients using telemedicine” respectfully reports
5 that it has considered the same and recommends that the bill be amended by
6 striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the
7 following:

8 Sec. 1. FACILITATION OF INTERSTATE PRACTICE USING
9 TELEHEALTH WORKING GROUP; REPORT

10 (a) Creation. There is created the Facilitation of Interstate Practice Using
11 Telehealth Working Group to compile and evaluate methods for facilitating
12 the interstate practice of health care professionals using telehealth modalities.

13 (b) Membership. The Working Group shall be composed of the following
14 members:

15 (1) the Director of the Office of Professional Regulation;

16 (2) representatives of the health care professions associated with the
17 Office of Professional Regulation, selected by their respective licensing
18 board or by the Director;

19 (3) the Executive Director of the Board of Medical Practice;

20 (4) representatives of the health care professions licensed by the Board
21 of Medical Practice, selected by the Commissioner of Health;

1 (5) representatives of health care professional organizations;

2 (6) representatives of health insurers; and

3 (7) other interested stakeholders.

4 (c) Powers and duties. The Working Group shall compile and evaluate
5 methods for facilitating the interstate practice of health care professionals
6 using telehealth modalities, including through the creation of telehealth
7 licenses, waiver of licensure, national licensure compacts, and regional
8 reciprocity agreements. In evaluating potential options for implementation in
9 Vermont, the Working Group shall consider the following issues:

10 (1) impacts and ethical considerations related to patient care and
11 continuity of care;

12 (2) whether to limit to health care professionals with preexisting
13 patient relationships;

14 (3) impacts on State regulatory oversight and enforcement, including
15 the fiscal impacts;

16 (4) effects on prescribing;

17 (5) differences between states in scopes of practice, qualifications,
18 regulation, and enforcement;

19 (6) different policy options for facilitating interstate practice, including
20 the potential for reciprocity with health care professionals licensed in
21 Vermont; and

1 (7) other issues relevant to facilitating the interstate practice of health
 2 care professionals.

3 (d) Assistance. The Working Group shall have the administrative,
 4 technical, and legal assistance of the Office of Professional Regulation.

5 (e) Report. On or before December 15, 2021, the Working Group shall
 6 provide its findings and recommendations to the House Committees on
 7 Health Care and on Government Operations and the Senate Committees on
 8 Health and Welfare and on Government Operations.

9 (f) Meetings. The Director of the Office of Professional Regulation shall
 10 be the chair of the Working Group and shall call the first meeting to occur on
 11 or before July 1, 2021.

12 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

13 This act shall take effect on passage.

14 and that after passage the title of the bill be amended to read: “An act
 15 relating to considerations in facilitating the interstate practice of health care
 16 professionals using telehealth”

17
 18 (Committee vote: _____)

19 _____
 20 Representative _____
 21 FOR THE COMMITTEE