

1 H.861

2 Introduced by Committee on Health Care

3 Date:

4 Subject: Health; health insurance; reimbursement rates; audio-only telephone;
5 telemedicine

6 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to require that
7 health insurance plans provide the same reimbursement amounts to health care
8 providers for delivering health care services in person, by telemedicine, and by
9 audio-only telephone. It would also repeal a sunset on reimbursement parity
10 for telemedicine services, as the reimbursement provision is scheduled to
11 expire on January 1, 2026.

12 ~~An act relating to reimbursement parity for health care services delivered in~~
13 ~~person, by telemedicine, and by audio-only telephone.~~

*An act relating to reimbursement parity for health care services delivered in
person, by telemedicine, and by audio-only telephone and extending time
for flood abatement reimbursement*

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

15 ~~Sec. 1, 8 V.S.A. § 4100I is amended to read:~~

16 § 4100I. COVERAGE OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES DELIVERED BY
17 AUDIO-ONLY TELEPHONE

18

1 ~~(b)(1) A health insurance plan shall provide coverage for all medically~~
2 necessary, clinically appropriate health care services delivered remotely by
3 audio-only telephone to the same extent that the plan would cover the services
4 if they were provided through in-person consultation. Services covered under
5 this subdivision shall include services that are covered when provided in the
6 home by home health agencies.

7 (2)(A) A health insurance plan shall provide the same reimbursement
8 rate for services billed using equivalent procedure codes and modifiers, subject
9 to the terms of the health insurance plan and provider contract, regardless of
10 whether the service was provided through an in-person visit with the health
11 care provider or by audio-only telephone.

12 (B) The provisions of subdivision (A) of this subdivision (2) shall
13 not apply in the event that a health insurer and health care provider enter into a
14 value-based contract for health care services that include care delivered by
15 audio-only telephone.

16 (c) A health insurance plan may charge an otherwise permissible
17 deductible, co-payment, or coinsurance for a health care service delivered by
18 audio-only telephone, provided that it does not exceed the deductible, co-
19 payment, or coinsurance applicable to an in-person consultation.

1 ~~(2)(d) A health insurance plan shall not require a health care provider to~~
2 have an existing relationship with a patient in order to be reimbursed for health
3 care services delivered by audio-only telephone.

4 Sec. 2. REPEAL; TELEMEDICINE REIMBURSEMENT PARITY SUNSET
5 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 91, Sec. 27 (repealing 8 V.S.A. § 4100k(a)(2),
6 telemedicine reimbursement parity, on January 1, 2026) is repealed.

7 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

8 ~~This act shall take effect on January 1, 2025.~~

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

*§ 4100l. COVERAGE OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES DELIVERED BY
AUDIO-ONLY TELEPHONE*

** * **

(b)(1) A health insurance plan shall provide coverage for all medically necessary, clinically appropriate health care services delivered remotely by audio-only telephone to the same extent that the plan would cover the services if they were provided through in-person consultation. Services covered under this subdivision shall include services that are covered when provided in the home by home health agencies.

(2)(A) A health insurance plan shall provide the same reimbursement rate for services billed using equivalent procedure codes and modifiers, subject to the terms of the health insurance plan and provider contract, regardless of

whether the service was provided through an in-person visit with the health care provider or by audio-only telephone.

(B) The provisions of subdivision (A) of this subdivision (2) shall not apply in the event that a health insurer and health care provider enter into a value-based contract for health care services that include care delivered by audio-only telephone.

(c) A health insurance plan may charge an otherwise permissible deductible, co-payment, or coinsurance for a health care service delivered by audio-only telephone, provided that it does not exceed the deductible, co-payment, or coinsurance applicable to an in-person consultation.

(3)(d) A health insurance plan shall not require a health care provider to have an existing relationship with a patient in order to be reimbursed for health care services delivered by audio-only telephone.

Sec. 2. REPEAL; TELEMEDICINE REIMBURSEMENT PARITY SUNSET

2020 Acts and Resolves No. 91, Sec. 27 (repealing 8 V.S.A. § 4100k(a)(2), telemedicine reimbursement parity, on January 1, 2026) is repealed.

Sec. 3. 2024 Acts and Resolves No. 82, Sec. 1(a)(1) is amended to read:

(a)(1) The Commissioner of Taxes may approve an application by a municipality for reimbursement of State education property tax payments owed under 32 V.S.A. § 5402(c) and 16 V.S.A. § 426. To be eligible for reimbursement under this section, prior to ~~April~~ November 15, 2024, a

municipality must have abated, in proportion to the abated municipal tax, under 24 V.S.A. § 1535 the State education property taxes that were assessed on eligible property, after application of any property tax credit allowed under 32 V.S.A. chapter 154.

Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATES

This act shall take effect on January 1, 2025, except this section and Sec. 3 (extension for flood abatement reimbursement) shall take effect on passage.