

1 TO THE HONORABLE SENATE:

2 The Committee on Finance to which was referred House Bill No. 861  
3 entitled “An act relating to reimbursement parity for health care services  
4 delivered in person, by telemedicine, and by audio-only telephone”  
5 respectfully reports that it has considered the same and recommends that the  
6 Senate propose to the House that the bill be amended by striking out all after  
7 the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

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

9 § 4100I. COVERAGE OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES DELIVERED BY  
10 AUDIO-ONLY TELEPHONE

11 \* \* \*

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

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

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

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

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

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

14 Sec. 2. REPEAL; TELEMEDICINE REIMBURSEMENT PARITY SUNSET

15 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 91, Sec. 27 (repealing 8 V.S.A. § 4100k(a)(2),  
16 telemedicine reimbursement parity, on January 1, 2026) is repealed.

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

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

1 municipality must have abated, in proportion to the abated municipal tax,  
2 under 24 V.S.A. § 1535 the State education property taxes that were assessed  
3 on eligible property, after application of any property tax credit allowed under  
4 32 V.S.A. chapter 154.

5 Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATES

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

8 and that after passage the title of the bill be amended to read: “An act  
9 relating to reimbursement parity for health care services delivered in person,  
10 by telemedicine, and by audio-only telephone and extending time for flood  
11 abatement reimbursement”

12  
13  
14

15 (Committee vote: \_\_\_\_\_)

16 \_\_\_\_\_

17 Senator \_\_\_\_\_

18 FOR THE COMMITTEE