

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

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

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

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

18 * * *

19 (b)(1) A health insurance plan shall provide coverage for all medically
20 necessary, clinically appropriate health care services delivered remotely by

1 audio-only telephone to the same extent that the plan would cover the services
2 if they were provided through in-person consultation. Services covered under
3 this subdivision shall include services that are covered when provided in the
4 home by home health agencies.

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

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

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

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

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3 telemedicine reimbursement parity, on January 1, 2026) is repealed.

4 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

5 This act shall take effect on January 1, 2025.