

Roundup of 2016 Approved State Telehealth Legislation

State	Bill	Summary
Alaska	HB 234	Requires insurance coverage for mental health benefits provided through telemedicine. <i>(Effective Sept. 11, 2016)</i>
Alaska	SB 74	Eliminates the requirement in Alaska law that only an in-state provider may write a prescription for an Alaskan patient if the service took place via telehealth. It also establishes a telemedicine business registry. <i>(Effective Oct. 9, 2016)</i>
Arizona	HB 2350	Stipulates that Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder of a peace officer is presumed to be a personal injury that is compensable pursuant to statute relating to workers' compensation; requires a state or political subdivision of the state to establish a program to provide a peace officer, firefighter or public safety employee up to a certain number of visits of licensed counseling, including telemedicine, paid for by the employer. <i>(Effective Aug. 6, 2016)</i>
Arizona	HB 2502	Enacts the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact. See CCHP's factsheet on the Compact for more information. <i>(Effective Aug. 6, 2016)</i>
Arizona	SB 1363	Amends sections of the law relating to telemedicine, specifically, removing the rural and geographical restrictions for contracts issued, delivered or renewed after January 1, 2018. It also adds pulmonology to the list of health care services that are required to be reimbursed by private payers. <i>(Effective Dec. 31, 2017)</i>
California	AB 1568/SB 815	Requires the state to establish an Advisory Committee that will provide input into the structure of an access assessment to evaluate primary, core specialty and facility access to care for managed care beneficiaries. The Advisory Committee will include representatives from consumer advocacy organizations, providers/provider associations, health plans/health plan associations, and legislative staff. The Committee's role will be to provide input into the assessment structure including network adequacy requirements and metrics that should be considered, as well as provide feedback on the access assessment structure and initial draft access assessment report. The access assessment must account for the use of other modalities for accessing care, including telemedicine (among other elements). <i>(Effective Jan. 1, 2017)</i>
Colorado	HB 1047	Enacts the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact. See CCHP's factsheet on the Compact for more information. <i>(Effective Jun. 8, 2016)</i>
Connecticut	SB 70	Redefines "telehealth provider" in statute related to standards for providers utilizing telehealth to include licensed speech and language pathologist, respiratory care practitioner or audiologist. <i>(Effective Oct. 1, 2016)</i>
Connecticut	SB 298	Requires the CT Medicaid program to provide coverage for telehealth services for Medicaid recipients when it is within state and federal resources to do so, and when it is clinically appropriate, cost effective and likely to expand access. <i>(Effective July 1, 2016)</i>
Florida	HB 977	Among other items, this bill states that the Legislature finds that the use of telemedicine in behavioral health for patient evaluation, case management, and ongoing care will improve management of patient care and reduce costs of transportation. <i>(Effective April 14, 2016)</i>

Florida	HB 7087	Requires the Agency for Health Care Administration, the Department of Health, and the Office of Insurance Regulation to collect certain information related to telehealth utilization, creates the Telehealth Advisory Council within the agency, and reenacts provisions relating to provider payment of managed medical assistance program participants. <i>(Effective July 1, 2016)</i>
Hawaii	HB 2169	Allows for supervision in the social work and mental health field to be conducted electronically through a video conference service that is HIPAA compliant. <i>(Effective Jul. 7, 2016)</i>
Hawaii	SB 2395	Amends Hawaii statute to redefine telehealth under their Medicaid program and private payer law to include real-time video conferencing based communication, store and forward, remote monitoring and mobile health among other forms of communication. It also prevents the State's Medicaid managed care and fee-for-service programs from denying coverage for any service provided through telehealth that would be covered if the service were provided in person. Among other policy changes, the bill also addresses the establishment of the physician-patient relationship via telehealth and requires professional liability insurers to provide malpractice coverage for telehealth. <i>(Effective Jan. 1, 2017)</i>
Indiana	HB 1263	Sets forth requirements that must be met before a prescriber may prescribe medication to a patient receiving telemedicine services. <i>(Effective Jul. 1, 2016)</i>
Kansas	HB 2615	Enacts the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact. See CCHP's factsheet on the Compact for more information. <i>(Effective Jul. 1, 2016)</i>
Kentucky	HB 95	Requires the Department for Medicaid Services to submit a waiver or amendment to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services in order to provide coverage for home telemonitoring services and direct-to-patient telehealth services, among other components. <i>(Effective July 1, 2017)</i>
Kentucky	SB 4	Allows the required private medical consultation that must take place prior to an abortion to occur via a real-time visual telehealth consultation. <i>(Effective July 14, 2016)</i>
Maryland	HB 886 & SB 242	Requires that should the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene specify by regulation the types of health care providers eligible to receive reimbursement for health care services provided to Medicaid recipients through telemedicine, it must include primary care providers. It also allows the Department to require a health care provider to submit a registration form to the Department that includes information required for the processing of claims for reimbursement for services delivered via telemedicine. Additionally, it directs the Department to submit a report to stipulated committees in the state legislature assessing the program's telehealth policies and detailing planned enhancements. <i>(Effective June 1, 2016)</i>
Maryland	HB 1217	Requires the Department of Mental Health and Hygiene to adopt regulations (if necessary) by June 30, 2017 that ensures the Maryland Medical Assistance program is in compliance with federal laws, including the scope of benefits for telehealth services. <i>(Effective Oct. 1, 2016)</i>
Maryland	HB 1318	Requires certain carriers to maintain or adhere to certain standards that ensure enrollees have access to certain providers. Among some of the items in the bill, a filed access plan that details how telehealth or technology may be used to meet network access standards is included. <i>(Effective Jan. 1, 2017)</i>

Maryland	SB 707	Creates a workgroup on rural health care delivery. Among their tasks, they would identify opportunities created by telehealth and the Maryland all-payer model contract for restructuring the delivery of health care services. <i>(Effective Jul. 1, 2016)</i>
Michigan	SB 753	Provides for regulation of telehealth in Michigan and includes definitions, the need for consent, and requirements of the provider when providing services via telehealth. <i>(Effective Mar. 31, 2017)</i>
Michigan	HB 4935	Amends Michigan's private payer law, prohibiting insurers that deliver, issues for delivery or renews health insurance policies from requiring face-to-face contact between a health care professional and a patient for services appropriately provided through telemedicine, as determined by the insurer. <i>(Effective Jul. 1, 2016)</i>
Michigan	HB 5294	This is an appropriations bill, which authorizes the department to spend funds for the continued development and expansion of telemedicine capacity to allow families with children in the children's special health care services program to access specialty providers more readily and in a timelier manner. It also directs the department to continue, and expand where appropriate, utilization of telemedicine and telepsychiatry as strategies to increase access to services for Medicaid recipients in medically underserved areas. <i>(Effective Jun. 29, 2016)</i>
Mississippi	HB 41	Enacts the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact. See CCHP's factsheet on the Compact for more information. <i>(Effective Jul. 1, 2016)</i>
Missouri	SB 579	Establishes telehealth standards for physicians delivering services through telehealth, including allowing a physician patient relationship to be established through telemedicine. The bill also allows for asynchronous telehealth reimbursement in certain specialties in Missouri's Medicaid program. <i>(Effective Aug. 28, 2016)</i>
Nebraska	LB 722	Requires the Department of Health and Human Services to adopt and promulgate rules and regulations to carry out the Stroke System Care Act. Additionally, a Stroke System of Care Task Force to address matters of triage, treatment and transport will be formed and it must recommend eligible essential health care services for acute stroke care provided through telehealth. <i>(Effective Jul. 20, 2016)</i>
New Hampshire	HB 1210	Allows the prescription of certain controlled substances via telemedicine if there is an in-person patient-provider relationship, for purposes of monitoring or follow-up care. <i>(Effective Aug. 8, 2016)</i>
New Hampshire	HB 1665	Enacts the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact. See CCHP's factsheet on the Compact for more information. <i>(Effective Jul. 4, 2016)</i>
New Hampshire	SB 330	Establishes the board of medical imaging and radiation therapy for the licensure and regulation of magnetic resonance technologists, nuclear medicine technologists, radiation therapists, radiographers, radiologist assistants, and sonographers. Among the Board's duty would also be to develop standards of care for telehealth or telemedicine. <i>(Effective Jul. 1, 2016)</i>
New Mexico	SB 78	Among other items, this bill would require the board to issue a telemedicine license to allow the practice of osteopathic medicine across state lines to an applicant who holds a full and unrestricted license to practice osteopathic medicine in another state or territory of the United States. The board shall establish by rule the necessary requirements for licensure provided they are not

		more restrictive than those required for licensure by endorsement. <i>(Effective Jul. 1, 2016)</i>
Oklahoma	HB 2547	Repeals the current statutory section regarding obtaining informed consent for a telemedicine encounter. <i>(Effective Nov. 1, 2016)</i>
Oklahoma	HB 2616	Among other items, this bill will make changes to the Oklahoma Telecommunications Act, adding a definition for “telemedicine service”, and allowing eligible healthcare entities to receive special universal services for telemedicine providers that will include the provision of bandwidth sufficient for providing telemedicine services. <i>(Effective July 1, 2017)</i>
Pennsylvania	HB 1619	Enacts the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact. See CCHP’s factsheet on the Compact for more information. <i>(Effective Dec. 25, 2016)</i>
Rhode Island	HB 7160 & SB 2577	Requires health insurance policies, plans or contracts issued, reissued or delivered on or after January 1, 2018, to include provisions for the reimbursement of telemedicine services in the same manner as such policies, plans or contracts reimburse for health care services provided through in-person consultation or contact. <i>(Effective Jun. 28, 2016)</i>
South Carolina	SB 1035	Provides a definition for “telemedicine” and addresses prescribing and the establishment of a patient-provider relationship via telemedicine. <i>(Effective Jun. 3, 2016)</i>
Tennessee	SB 1214	Specifies that a person who authorizes the practice of teledentistry will be deemed to be practicing dentistry and subject to requirements governing dentistry, requires dentists who deliver services using teledentistry to establish protocols for the practice, and enacts other provisions governing teledentistry. <i>(Effective Jul. 1, 2016)</i>
Tennessee	HB 2331 & SB 2373	Eliminates the requirement that a healthcare services provider be at a hospital or other qualified site for a service to be considered a telehealth service for insurance purposes, and requires health insurance entities to reimburse healthcare service providers at the same rate for telehealth services as for in-person encounters. <i>(Effective Jul. 1, 2016)</i>
Utah	HB 277	Creates the Digital Teaching and Learning Grant Program and makes allocations for the Utah Education and Telehealth Network program. <i>(Effective May 10, 2016)</i>
Utah	HB 36	Create a Health Reform Taskforce which would (among other items) make recommendations on telehealth services. <i>(Effective May 10, 2016)</i>
Vermont	HB 812	Implements a value based payment model under Medicaid. The model must ensure that it supports coordination of patients’ care and care transitions through the use of technology, with patient consent, such as sharing electronic summary records across providers and using telemedicine, home telemonitoring and other technologies. <i>(Effective Jan. 1, 2018)</i>
Vermont	SB 243	Among other items, requires the VT Department of Health Access, in order to facilitate the use of telemedicine to treat substance use disorder, to ensure that both the treating clinician and host facility are reimbursed for services rendered, unless both are employed by the same entity. <i>(Effective July 1, 2016)</i>
Virginia	SB 369	Establishes a telehealth pilot program to expand access to and improve coordination and quality of health care services in rural and medically underserved areas of Virginia. <i>(Effective July 1, 2016)</i>

Washington	SB 6519	Expands patient access to health services through telemedicine by adding the home as an eligible originating site for private payer plans and establishes a collaborative for the advancement of telemedicine. <i>(Effective Jun. 9, 2016)</i>
West Virginia	HB 4463	Permits the practice of telemedicine and details the requirements and standards, including prescribing and developing a patient-provider relationship. Definitions are also provided. <i>(Effective Jun. 9, 2016)</i>
West Virginia	SB 47	Prohibits the practice of telemedicine within West Virginia of any person who does not hold an active, unexpired license. Also provides a definition for “practice of telemedicine.” <i>(Effective Jun. 9, 2016)</i>
West Virginia	SB 454	Provides a definition of telehealth, and allows a practitioner providing medication-assisted treatment to perform certain aspects by telehealth if permitted under their scope of practice. <i>(Effective Jul. 1, 2016)</i>
Wyoming	SF 42	Amends the Occupational Therapy Practice Act by revising the definition of “occupational therapy” to include performing occupational therapy through personal interaction or appropriate use of telecommunication services and other communication technologies. It also provides a definition for “occupational therapy telehealth.” <i>(Effective Jul. 1, 2016)</i>