HOUSE BILL NO. 29

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES SPOHNHOLZ, Drummond, Lincoln, Tarr, Josephson, Story, LeDoux

SENATORS Wilson, Revak

Introduced: 2/20/19
Referred: Health and Social Services, Labor and Commerce

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

"An Act relating to insurance coverage for benefits provided through telehealth; and providing for an effective date."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

* Section 1. AS 21.42.422 is amended to read:

Sec. 21.42.422. Coverage for telehealth [AND MENTAL HEALTH BENEFITS]. A health care insurer that offers, issues for delivery, or renews in the state a health care insurance plan in the group or individual market [THAT PROVIDES MENTAL HEALTH BENEFITS] shall provide coverage for [MENTAL HEALTH] benefits provided through telehealth by a health care provider licensed in this state and may not require that prior in-person contact occur between a health care provider and a patient before payment is made for covered services.

* Sec. 2. AS 21.42.422 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

(b) In this section,

(1) "health care insurer" means a person transacting the business of
health care insurance, including an insurance company licensed under AS 21.09, a hospital or medical service corporation licensed under AS 21.87, a fraternal benefit society licensed under AS 21.84, a health maintenance organization licensed under AS 21.86, the Comprehensive Health Insurance Association described in AS 21.55.010, a multiple employer welfare arrangement, a church plan, and a governmental plan, except for a nonfederal governmental plan that elects to be excluded under 42 U.S.C. 300gg-21(a)(2) (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996);

(2) "telehealth" has the meaning given in AS 47.05.270(e).

* Sec. 3. The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to read:

APPLICABILITY. AS 21.42.422, as amended by sec. 1 of this Act, applies to a health care insurance plan offered, issued for delivery, delivered, or renewed on or after the effective date of this Act.

* Sec. 4. This Act takes effect July 1, 2020.