

HOUSE BILL NO. 358

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVE SPOHNHOLZ

Introduced: 2/19/18

Referred: Health and Social Services, Labor and Commerce

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

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

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

4 * **Section 1.** AS 21.42.422 is amended to read:

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

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

13 (b) In this section,

14 (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(b)(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.

15 * Sec. 4. This Act takes effect July 1, 2019.