

**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

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

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

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

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

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