

**HOUSE BILL NO. 234**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

**BY REPRESENTATIVES VAZQUEZ, Gara, Hughes, Nageak**

**Introduced: 1/19/16**

**Referred: Health and Social Services, Labor and Commerce**

**A BILL**

**FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

1   **"An Act relating to insurance coverage for mental health benefits provided through**  
2   **telemedicine."**

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

4    \* **Section 1.** AS 21.54 is amended by adding a new section to read:

5           **Sec. 21.54.102. Telemedicine and mental health benefits.** A health care  
6           insurer that offers, issues for delivery, or renews in the state a health care insurance  
7           plan in the group or individual market that provides mental health benefits shall  
8           provide coverage for mental health benefits provided through telemedicine by a health  
9           care provider licensed in this state and may not require that prior in-person contact  
10          occur between a health care provider and a patient before payment is made for covered  
11          services.

12    \* **Sec. 2.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to  
13    read:

14          **APPLICABILITY.** AS 21.54.102, added by sec. 1 of this Act, applies to a health care

- 1 insurance plan offered, issued for delivery, delivered, or renewed on or after the effective date
- 2 of this Act.