

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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Summary of Changes SB 175 Version I to G

"An Act relating to telehealth; relating to the practice of medicine; relating to medical assistance coverage for services provided by telehealth; and providing for an effective date."

Version 32-LS1421\G (Senate Health and Social Services Committee Substitute)

6 distinct changes from first 32-LS1421\I to 32-LS1421\G

- 1) The ability to prescribe, dispense, or administer botulinum toxin (Botox) via telehealth is removed.
 - a. **Page 2, Line 21:** Removed "botulism toxins".
- 2) Language regarding Alaska Medicaid services in Section 4 is cleaned up.
 - a. **Page 5, Lines 24 and 25:** Removed facsimile to remove fax as a modality for Alaska Medicaid.
 - b. **Page 5, Lines 5 and 6:** Removed "and other federal waivers or demonstrations" and added a separate line for "services covered under federal waivers and demonstrations other than home and community-based services.
 - c. **Page 5, line 17:** Deleted "the Community Health Aide Program Certification Board" and replaced it with "a certifying entity for behavioral health professionals in the state specified by the department in regulations"
- 3) Language regarding prescribing via telehealth for APRNs is tightened and clarified. Does not expand the prescribing powers of APRNs.
 - a. **Page 2, Lines 25:** Added "if the advanced practice registered nurse complies with AS 08.68.710."
 - b. **New section 3 (does not exist in version I):** Creates a new section under Title 8, Chapter 68 (Nursing) defining the telehealth prescriptive authority of APRNs in statute. This section aligns the regulatory authority of the Board of

Nursing with the State Medical Board regarding the prescription of controlled substances via telehealth.

- 4) Language was added to require applicable licensing boards and DHSS to adopt regulations necessary to implement sections 3-6 of the Act (including the Medicaid provisions) no later than June 30, 2023.
 - a. **New section 11 (does not exist in version I):** Adds language to detail when each entity must adopt regulations.
 - b. **Adds a new effective date for section 11.** New section 11 takes effect immediately.
- 5) Added 7-year sunset on Medicaid pay parity.
 - a. **New Section 6 and 7 with effective date of June 30th, 2030:** Sunset's language relating to Medicaid pay parity for telehealth.
- 6) Changed language throughout to refer to Department of Health.