

HOUSE BILL NO. 234

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES VAZQUEZ, Gara, Hughes, Nageak, Foster, Tarr, Talerico, Edgmon, Muñoz

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.