



# LAWS OF ALASKA

2020

**Source**

SCS HB 29(HSS) am S

**Chapter No.**

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**AN ACT**

Relating to insurance coverage for benefits provided through telehealth; and providing for an effective date.

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

THE ACT FOLLOWS ON PAGE 1



**AN ACT**

1 Relating to insurance coverage for benefits provided through telehealth; and providing for an  
2 effective date.

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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(a)(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 uncodified 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 immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).