

**House File 294 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE 294  
BY COMMITTEE ON HUMAN  
RESOURCES

(SUCCESSOR TO HF 89)

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to reimbursement rates for health care services  
2 for mental health conditions, illnesses, injuries, or  
3 diseases provided to covered persons by telehealth, and  
4 including effective date and retroactive applicability  
5 provisions.  
6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 514C.34, subsection 1, Code 2021, is  
2 amended by adding the following new paragraphs:

3 NEW PARAGRAPH. *0a.* "Covered person" means the same as  
4 defined in section 514J.102.

5 NEW PARAGRAPH. *00a.* "Facility" means the same as defined in  
6 section 514J.102.

7 NEW PARAGRAPH. *0c.* "Health carrier" means the same as  
8 defined in section 514J.102.

9 Sec. 2. Section 514C.34, subsection 1, paragraph c, Code  
10 2021, is amended to read as follows:

11 *c.* "Telehealth" means the delivery of health care services  
12 through the use of real-time interactive audio and video, or  
13 other real-time interactive electronic media, regardless of  
14 where the health care professional and the covered person are  
15 each located. "Telehealth" does not include the delivery of  
16 health care services delivered solely through an audio-only  
17 telephone, electronic mail message, or facsimile transmission.

18 Sec. 3. Section 514C.34, Code 2021, is amended by adding the  
19 following new subsection:

20 NEW SUBSECTION. 3A. *a.* A health carrier shall reimburse  
21 a health care professional and a facility for health care  
22 services provided by telehealth to a covered person for a  
23 mental health condition, illness, injury, or disease on the  
24 same basis and at the same rate as the health carrier would  
25 apply to the same health care services for a mental health  
26 condition, illness, injury, or disease provided in person to a  
27 covered person by the health care professional or the facility.

28 *b.* As a condition of reimbursement pursuant to paragraph  
29 "a", a health carrier shall not require that an additional  
30 health care professional be located in the same room as a  
31 covered person while health care services for a mental health  
32 condition, illness, injury, or disease are provided via  
33 telehealth by another health care professional to the covered  
34 person.

35 Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act, being deemed of immediate

1 importance, takes effect upon enactment.

2       Sec. 5. RETROACTIVE APPLICABILITY. This Act applies to  
3 health care services for a mental health condition, illness,  
4 injury, or disease provided by a health care professional or a  
5 facility to a covered person by telehealth on or after January  
6 1, 2021.

7   EXPLANATION

8               The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with  
9               the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

10       This bill requires a health carrier to reimburse a health  
11 care professional or a facility for health care services for a  
12 mental health condition, illness, injury, or disease provided  
13 to a covered person via telehealth on the same basis and at the  
14 same rate as the health carrier would apply to the same health  
15 care services provided to the covered person by the health  
16 care professional or facility in person. "Health carrier" is  
17 defined in the bill.

18       The bill amends the definition of "telehealth" to specify  
19 that the delivery of health care services via telehealth must  
20 include real-time interactive audio, video, or electronic  
21 media, regardless of the location of the health care  
22 professional or the covered person.

23       The bill prohibits a health carrier from requiring an  
24 additional health care professional to be located in the same  
25 room as a covered person while health care service for a mental  
26 health condition, illness, injury, or disease are provided via  
27 telehealth by another health care professional to the covered  
28 person.

29       The bill is effective upon enactment and applies  
30 retroactively to health care services for a mental health  
31 condition, illness, injury, or disease provided to a covered  
32 person via telehealth on or after January 1, 2021.