
DIGEST

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HB 480 Engrossed

2016 Regular Session

Jackson

Abstract: Provides conditions and authorizations relative to the practice of telemedicine in licensed healthcare facilities.

Present law provides for regulation of the practice of medicine, including telemedicine.

Proposed law retains present law, and provides that all of the following conditions and authorizations shall apply to a physician who holds an unrestricted license to practice medicine from the La. State Board of Medical Examiners and who practices telemedicine upon any patient who is being treated at a healthcare facility that is required to be licensed pursuant to present law and which holds a current registration with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration:

- (1) The physician shall use the same standard of care as if the healthcare services were provided in person.
- (2) The physician shall be authorized to prescribe any controlled dangerous substance without necessity of conducting an appropriate in-person patient history or physical examination of the patient as otherwise would be required by present law.
- (3) The physician shall not be subject to any regulatory prohibition or restriction on the practice of telemedicine, including prohibitions or restrictions related to prescribing controlled dangerous substances, which are in any manner more restrictive than the prohibitions and restrictions that are otherwise applicable to the entire practice of medicine.

Proposed law provides that nothing therein shall prohibit or otherwise restrict the La. State Board of Medical Examiners from taking any action allowed by law or regulation in the administration of any disciplinary matter.

Effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 37:1271(B)(2)(intro. para.) and (3); Adds R.S. 37:1271.1)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Health and Welfare to the original bill:

1. Stipulate that the healthcare facilities in which telemedicine may be practiced in the manner authorized by proposed law must hold a current registration with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration.
2. Make a technical change.