

HOUSE BILL 14

C3

11r0580

(PRE-FILED)

By: **Delegate Smigiel**

Requested: November 17, 2010

Introduced and read first time: January 12, 2011

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Health Insurance – Medically Underserved Areas and Populations –**
3 **Reimbursement for Covered Services Rendered by Telemedicine**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring certain health insurance carriers to reimburse a licensed
5 health care provider for a covered service rendered by telemedicine to an
6 insured or enrollee in a medically underserved area or population; requiring a
7 covered service rendered by telemedicine to be reimbursed at a certain rate;
8 making certain provisions of this Act applicable to health maintenance
9 organizations; defining certain terms; providing for the application of this Act;
10 and generally relating to health insurance reimbursement for covered services
11 rendered by telemedicine in medically underserved areas and populations.

12 BY adding to

13 Article – Insurance

14 Section 15–138

15 Annotated Code of Maryland

16 (2006 Replacement Volume and 2010 Supplement)

17 BY adding to

18 Article – Health – General

19 Section 19–706(kkkk)

20 Annotated Code of Maryland

21 (2009 Replacement Volume and 2010 Supplement)

22 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
23 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

24 **Article – Insurance**

25 **15–138.**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE**
2 **MEANINGS INDICATED.**

3 **(2) “CARRIER” MEANS:**

4 **(I) AN INSURER;**

5 **(II) A NONPROFIT HEALTH SERVICE PLAN;**

6 **(III) A HEALTH MAINTENANCE ORGANIZATION; OR**

7 **(IV) ANY OTHER PERSON THAT PROVIDES HEALTH BENEFIT**
8 **PLANS SUBJECT TO REGULATION BY THE STATE.**

9 **(3) “MEDICALLY UNDERSERVED AREA OR POPULATION” MEANS**
10 **AN AREA OR POPULATION DESIGNATED BY THE FEDERAL HEALTH RESOURCES**
11 **AND SERVICES ADMINISTRATION AS HAVING TOO FEW PRIMARY CARE**
12 **PROVIDERS, HIGH INFANT MORTALITY, HIGH POVERTY, OR HIGH ELDERLY**
13 **POPULATION.**

14 **(4) (I) “TELEMEDICINE” MEANS THE USE OF MEDICAL**
15 **INFORMATION EXCHANGED FROM ONE SITE TO ANOTHER VIA ELECTRONIC**
16 **COMMUNICATIONS TO IMPROVE A PATIENT’S HEALTH STATUS.**

17 **(II) “TELEMEDICINE” INCLUDES:**

18 **1. REMOTE REVIEW OF DIAGNOSTIC INFORMATION;**

19 **2. REAL-TIME, TWO-WAY AUDIO AND VIDEO**
20 **COMMUNICATION BETWEEN A HEALTH CARE PROVIDER AND A PATIENT;**

21 **3. SPECIALIST REFERRAL SERVICES;**

22 **4. PATIENT CONSULTATIONS; AND**

23 **5. REMOTE PATIENT MONITORING.**

24 **(B) THIS SECTION APPLIES TO CARRIERS THAT ISSUE OR DELIVER IN**
25 **THE STATE CONTRACTS OR POLICIES THAT PROVIDE HOSPITAL, MEDICAL, OR**
26 **SURGICAL BENEFITS TO INDIVIDUALS OR GROUPS ON AN EXPENSE-INCURRED**
27 **BASIS.**

