

**As Introduced**

**132nd General Assembly  
Regular Session  
2017-2018**

**H. B. No. 617**

**Representative West**

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**A BILL**

To enact section 3701.751 of the Revised Code to 1  
establish the Ohio Telehealth Commission. 2

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:**

**Section 1.** That section 3701.751 of the Revised Code be 3  
enacted to read as follows: 4

**Sec. 3701.751.** (A) There is hereby created the Ohio 5  
telehealth commission. The commission shall consist of all of 6  
the following members: 7

(1) Each of the following individuals appointed by the 8  
governor: 9

(a) One representative of a health care facility; 10

(b) One health care practitioner; 11

(c) One health care workforce educator; 12

(d) One individual with knowledge or expertise in 13  
telehealth or health information technology; 14

(e) One representative of the telecommunications industry; 15

(f) One representative of the business community; 16

(g) One representative of a health insurer; 17

(h) One representative of a labor union whose members work 18  
primarily in the health care field; 19

(i) One member of the commission on minority health; 20

(j) Two members of the general assembly, one from the 21  
majority party and one from the minority party. 22

(2) The following individuals or their designees: the 23  
directors of aging, developmental disabilities, education, 24  
health, job and family services, and rehabilitation and 25  
correction; the medicaid director; the executive director of the 26  
office of health transformation; and the chairperson of the 27  
public utilities commission. 28

(B) (1) Not later than thirty days after the effective date 29  
of this section, the governor shall make initial appointments to 30  
the commission. Of the members described in divisions (A) (1) (a) 31  
to (h) of this section, four shall be appointed to initial terms 32  
of two years and four shall be appointed to initial terms of 33  
three years. Thereafter, terms of office for the members 34  
described in divisions (A) (1) (a) to (h) shall be three years, 35  
with each term ending on the same day of the same month as the 36  
term it succeeds. Each of these members shall hold office from 37  
the date of appointment until the end of the term for which the 38  
member was appointed. Members may be reappointed. 39

The members described in divisions (A) (1) (i) and (j) and 40  
division (A) (2) of this section shall hold office until the date 41  
they are no longer serving in their respective positions 42  
described in those divisions. 43

Vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as original 44  
appointments. Any member appointed to fill a vacancy occurring 45

prior to the expiration of the term for which the member's 46  
predecessor was appointed shall hold office for the remainder of 47  
that term. A member shall continue in office subsequent to the 48  
expiration date of the member's term until the member's 49  
successor takes office or until a period of ninety days has 50  
elapsed, whichever occurs first. 51

Members shall serve without compensation, but shall be 52  
reimbursed for the actual and necessary expenses they incur in 53  
the performance of their official duties. 54

(2) The governor shall select from among the commission's 55  
members a chairperson and vice-chairperson. The commission shall 56  
meet at the call of the chairperson or vice-chairperson, but not 57  
less than two times each year. A majority of the members of the 58  
commission constitutes a quorum. The department of health shall 59  
provide meeting space, staff, and other administrative support 60  
in order for the commission to carry out its duties. 61

(C) The commission shall examine telehealth, in particular 62  
the use of electronic information, imaging, and communication 63  
technologies to provide, support, and improve health care 64  
access, delivery, diagnosis, consultation, treatment, and the 65  
transfer of medical data. The commission shall review and make 66  
recommendations on all of the following: 67

(1) The ways in which telehealth and health information 68  
technologies, including products, devices, or systems allowing 69  
for the secure collection, storage, exchange, or management of 70  
patient information, may be used to increase access to and 71  
reduce costs associated with health care, attract and retain 72  
health care providers in rural or underserved areas, and 73  
implement comprehensive health plans at the state level; 74

(2) Any barriers to the use or expansion of telehealth, including those related to payment, infrastructure, training, and workforce availability; 75  
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(3) The telecommunications services, assets, and infrastructure present in this state and the potential financial impact of developing or failing to develop such capabilities for purposes of telehealth services; 78  
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(4) The coordination of public and private sector initiatives to enhance networking, portal development, and connectivity in an effort to expand telehealth and telecommunications capacity; 82  
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(5) The ways in which the collaborative efforts of public and private partnerships may serve to increase and improve the use of telehealth in this state; 86  
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(6) Any telehealth standards and guidelines that may improve the quality of patient care and health outcomes as well as protect patient privacy and confidentiality; 89  
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(7) Any initiatives, projects, or grant applications involving telehealth at the state level. 92  
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(D) The commission may establish subcommittees as it considers necessary to fulfill its duties or to address specific telehealth concerns. 94  
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(E) The commission shall prepare on an annual basis a report describing the status of the telehealth system within the state and the adequacy and allocation of telehealth services throughout the state. The report shall also include the recommendations described in division (C) of this section and may include any other recommendations the commission considers necessary. Not later than the thirty-first day of December of 97  
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each year, the commission shall submit the report to the general 104  
assembly in accordance with section 101.68 of the Revised Code 105  
and to the governor. 106

(F) The commission is not subject to sections 101.82 to 107  
101.87 of the Revised Code. 108