

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

HB 498 - SB 721

February 9, 2023

SUMMARY OF BILL: Exempts a patient who is receiving an initial behavioral health evaluation or assessment from the requirement of an in-person encounter between the patient and a healthcare service provider, the healthcare service provider's practice group, or the healthcare system within 16 months prior to a telehealth visit. Authorizes a physician assistant authorized to prescribe drugs who provides services via telehealth to arrange for the required personal review of the physician assistant's charts by a collaborating physician, or the required visit by a collaborating physician to any remote site, or both, via HIPAA-compliant electronic means rather than at the site of the clinic.

FISCAL IMPACT:

NOT SIGNIFICANT

Assumptions:

- The proposed legislation will not have a significant impact on the policies or procedures of the Department of Health or health-related boards.
- TennCare covers in-person behavioral health services at the same rate as telehealth behavioral health services; therefore, no impact to TennCare expenditures.
- According to the Division of Benefits Administration, the state group insurance plans do not require an in-person assessment 16 months prior to use of telehealth behavioral health services; therefore, no impact to the state employee, local education, or local government insurance plans.

IMPACT TO COMMERCE:

NOT SIGNIFICANT

Assumption:

- Any impact to commerce or jobs in Tennessee is estimated to be not significant.

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CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Handwritten signature of Krista Lee Carsner in black ink.

Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

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