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## DIGEST

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HB 449 Engrossed

2020 Regular Session

Echols

**Abstract:** Provides relative to behavioral health services delivered via telehealth and regulation of such services by the La. Department of Health.

Present law, the Louisiana Telehealth Access Act (R.S. 40:1223.1 et seq.), defines "telehealth", in pertinent part, as a mode of delivering healthcare services that utilizes information and communication technologies to enable the diagnosis, consultation, treatment, education, care management, and self-management of patients at a distance from healthcare providers. Proposed law amends this definition to provide that healthcare services delivered via telehealth include behavioral health services.

Present law, the Behavioral Health Services Provider Licensing Law (R.S. 40:2151 et seq.), requires the La. Department of Health to promulgate rules and regulations for behavioral health services providers. Proposed law provides that such rules and regulations address the delivery of behavioral health services through telehealth.

(Amends R.S. 40:1223.3(6); Adds R.S. 40:2153(16) and 2156(B)(16))