

2020 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 449

BY REPRESENTATIVE ECHOLS

HEALTH SERVICES: Provides relative to behavioral health services delivered via telehealth

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 40:1223.3(6) and to enact R.S. 40:2153(16) and 2156(B)(16),  
3 relative to behavioral health services; to provide relative to delivery of such services  
4 through telehealth; to provide for definitions; to provide for regulation of behavioral  
5 health services providers by the Louisiana Department of Health; to provide for  
6 administrative rulemaking by the department relative to behavioral health services;  
7 and to provide for related matters.

8 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

9 Section 1. R.S. 40:1223.3(6) is hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 40:2153(16)  
10 and 2156(B)(16) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

11 §1223.3. Definitions

12 \* \* \*

13 (6) "Telehealth" means a mode of delivering healthcare services, including  
14 behavioral health services, that utilizes information and communication technologies  
15 to enable the diagnosis, consultation, treatment, education, care management, and  
16 self-management of patients at a distance from healthcare providers. Telehealth  
17 allows services to be accessed when providers are in a distant site and patients are  
18 in the originating site. Telehealth facilitates patient self-management and caregiver  
19 support for patients and includes synchronous interactions and asynchronous store  
20 and forward transfers.

21 \* \* \*

1 §2153. Definitions

2 \* \* \*

3 (16) "Telehealth" has the meaning ascribed in R.S. 40:1223.3.

4 \* \* \*

5 §2156. Rules and regulations; licensing standards; fees

6 \* \* \*

7 B. The department shall prescribe, promulgate, and publish rules,  
8 regulations, and licensing standards for behavioral health services providers. The  
9 rules, regulations, and licensing standards shall include but are not limited to the  
10 following:

11 \* \* \*

12 (16) Delivery of behavioral health services through telehealth.

13 \* \* \*

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DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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HB 449 Engrossed

2020 Regular Session

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**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))