

Senate Health and Human Services Committee

Kyle Baker 271-2609

SB 237-FN, relative to telemedicine services.

Hearing Date: February 21, 2017

Time Opened: 3:45 p.m.

Time Closed: 4:00 p.m.

Members of the Committee Present: Senators Bradley, Avar, Gray and Fuller
Clark

Members of the Committee Absent : Senator Hennessey

Bill Analysis: This bill allows medical providers who practice in metropolitan areas to be reimbursed by Medicaid for telehealth services.

Sponsors:

Sen. Soucy
Rep. Freitas

Rep. Danielson

Rep. LeBrun

Who supports the bill: Chris Hodgdon, Comcast; Tricia Lucas, DHHS; Paula Minnehan, NHHA; Ken Norton, NAMI NH; Cinde Warmington, CBHA; Bill Rider, MHCGM/ NHCBA; Susan Paschell, NHCBA

Who opposes the bill: None

Who is neutral on the bill: None

Summary of testimony presented in support:

Senator Soucy - Senate District 18

- This bill would allow providers inside metropolitan areas to bill Medicaid for telemedicine services.
- This is important because we need to make sure that these services are available for everyone who needs them.
- There is a shortage of mental health providers in our state and this would help address that shortage.

Tricia Lucas - DHHS

- Bill would allow Medicaid providers who practice in metropolitan areas to bill for telemedicine services.

- Research supports the efficacy of these types of services.
- The department is in full support of this program.

Sen. Bradley – The fiscal note states that there would be an increase in services but this practice also reduces the need for more expensive services, correct?

Lucas – Yes. It could definitely cut back on emergency admissions if patients had more access to these services.

Bill Rider – Mental Health Center of Greater Manchester

- Supports
- There is a shortage of mental providers in the state and this leads to a lack of access of care.
- Lack of access to mental health care leads to expensive emergency room and inpatient psychiatric care.
- When a provider moves out of state we lose the relationship they have made with their patients. With telemedicine we can continue to have a patient work with the same practitioners. We would like them to be reimbursed to make these services available for the Medicaid population.

Summary of testimony presented in opposition: None

Neutral Information Presented: None

Future Action: Ought to Pass

KRB

Date Hearing Report completed: March 2, 2017