



NH STATE SENATE PRESS RELEASE

January 28, 2020

Contact Name: Sara Persechino

Phone: (603) 271-3479

Email: Sara.Persechino@leg.state.nh.us

Senator Kahn's Bill, SB 647-FN, Would Expand & Clarify Telemedicine Services in NH

CONCORD - Today, Senator Jay Kahn (D-Keene) introduced SB 647-FN to the Senate Health and Human Services Committee. SB 647-FN expands on the work done last session with the adoption of SB 258, which allowed health care practices providing telemedicine in the way of primary care visits, substance-use treatment, and more, to get reimbursed for those services for both Medicaid patients and through private insurers. Additionally, SB 258 added store and forward for telehealth consultations and diagnosis as well as expanded originating place, particularly in-home monitoring.

SB 647 allows for telehealth consultations and authorization for medically assisted treatment (MAT) without prior in-office examinations for patients who seek addiction treatment through the NH Doorways sites, state or county corrections facilities and VA and other approved healthcare clinics.

After the hearing, prime sponsor Jay Kahn (D-Keene) issued the following statement:

"Last year we made significant advances in expanding telemedicine services by allowing primary care physicians and pediatricians to bill Medicaid and private insurers for telemedicine services. Not only do these measures reduce the overall cost of health care, but they have worked to expedite diagnosis and communication between providers and patients. Now, with the expanded definitions as outlined in SB 647-FN, we are able to connect more patients with necessary services, particularly those fighting substance use disorder. In New Hampshire, where we lost over 250 people to opioid overdoses in 2019; these expanded services truly have the power to save lives."

###