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SENATE BILL 6704

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State of Washington

54th Legislature

1996 Regular Session

By Senator Sutherland

Read first time 01/24/96. Referred to Committee on Energy,  
Telecommunications & Utilities.

1 AN ACT Relating to the use of telecommunications in the medical  
2 industry; and creating new sections.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that modern  
5 telecommunications applications offer the potential to improve the  
6 health of citizens, especially in rural areas. The legislature further  
7 finds that there is a need to examine a range of issues pertaining to  
8 telemedicine before these practices are likely to become widespread.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) By November 1, 1997, the state board of  
10 health shall complete a study on the current and potential use of  
11 telemedicine in the state. The study shall include:

12 (a) The nature and extent of current telemedicine use within the  
13 state;

14 (b) The location and types of facilities within the state that  
15 would benefit from increased telemedicine availability;

16 (c) The operating standards and characteristics most commonly  
17 employed in telemedicine system equipment used in and out of the state  
18 and projected trends in telemedicine system performance standards;

1 (d) Any legal or institutional barriers to expanding the use of  
2 telemedicine in the state;

3 (e) Recommended changes in rules and statutes so as to expand the  
4 use of telemedicine in the state; and

5 (f) Any other findings or recommendations not otherwise specified  
6 under this section that the state board of health considers relevant  
7 and necessary concerning the development of intrastate and interstate  
8 telemedicine networks.

9 (2) The state board of health shall report its findings to the  
10 legislative committees that cover telecommunications issues and health  
11 issues, the secretary of health, and the governor.

12 (3) For the purposes of this section, "telemedicine" means  
13 technology allowing the exchange of medical information for the purpose  
14 of facilitating diagnoses, including but not limited to transmittal of  
15 images, test results, diagnostic results, and other medical data or  
16 medical information to or from a physician or other health professional  
17 at a location remote from the patient being examined.

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