

HOUSE BILL REPORT

SB 6163

As Reported by House Committee On: Health Care & Wellness

Title: An act relating to extending the duration of the collaborative for the advancement of telemedicine.

Brief Description: Extending the duration of the collaborative for the advancement of telemedicine.

Sponsors: Senators Becker, Cleveland, Fain, Bailey, Brown, Wilson, Short, Conway, Keiser and Kuderer.

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

Health Care & Wellness: 2/20/18, 2/21/18 [DPA].

Brief Summary of Bill (As Amended by Committee)

- Extends the termination date for the Collaborative for the Advancement of Telemedicine to December 31, 2021.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH CARE & WELLNESS

Majority Report: Do pass as amended. Signed by 17 members: Representatives Cody, Chair; Macri, Vice Chair; Schmick, Ranking Minority Member; Graves, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Caldier, Clibborn, DeBolt, Harris, Jinkins, MacEwen, Maycumber, Riccelli, Robinson, Rodne, Slatter, Stonier and Tharinger.

Staff: Kim Weidenaar (786-7120).

Background:

In 2016 the Collaborative for the Advancement of Telemedicine (Collaborative) was created to enhance the understanding of health services provided through telemedicine. The Collaborative is hosted by the University of Washington Telehealth Services and is comprised of one member from each of the two largest caucuses of the Senate and the House

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of Representatives, and representatives from the academic community, hospitals, clinics, and health care providers in primary care and specialty practices, carriers, and other interested parties.

The Collaborative is required to develop recommendations on improving reimbursement and access to services, including reviewing the originating site restrictions or additions proposed in this bill, provider-to-provider consultative models, and technologies and models of care not currently reimbursed. The Collaborative must identify telemedicine best practices, guidelines, billing requirements, and fraud prevention developed by recognized medical and telemedicine organizations. The Collaborative must also make a recommendation on whether to create a technical assistance center in Washington to support providers in implementing or expanding services delivered through telemedicine. An initial progress report was due December 1, 2016, with follow-up reports due December 1, 2017, and December 1, 2018. Reports must be shared with the health care committees of the Legislature as well as relevant professional associations, governing boards, or commissions. Meetings must be open to the public with summaries available on a web page.

The future of the Collaborative shall be reviewed by the Legislature with consideration of on-going technical assistance needs. The Collaborative terminates December 31, 2018.

Summary of Amended Bill:

The termination date for the Collaborative for the Advancement of Telemedicine (Collaborative) is extended to December 31, 2021. The Collaborative must submit a final progress report by December 1, 2021.

Amended Bill Compared to Original Bill:

The amended bill requires the Collaborative for the Advancement of Telemedicine to submit a final progress report to the Legislature by December 1, 2021

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Effective Date of Amended Bill: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony:

(In support) The Collaborative for the Advancement of Telemedicine (Collaborative) has done a lot of great work over the last few years, though there is a lot more work ahead. With a few additional years, the Collaborative can deliver on a few additional items, including

payment parity. Telemedicine is a very important tool, particularly for patients who cannot drive or do not have access to other transportation. Transportation is a significant issue for many individuals, including individuals with developmental disabilities. Telemedicine allows these individuals to receive medical care when they cannot travel or in their own home.

(Opposed) None.

Persons Testifying: Senator Becker, prime sponsor; Ian Goodhew, University of Washington School of Medicine; Diana Stadden, The Arc of Washington; and Ivanova Smith, Self Advocates in Leadership.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: None.