

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 2861

Introduced by Assembly Member Salas

February 16, 2018

An act to add Section 14132.731 to the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to Medi-Cal.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2861, as introduced, Salas. Medi-Cal: telehealth: substance use disorder services.

Existing law provides for the Medi-Cal program, which is administered by the State Department of Health Care Services and under which qualified low-income individuals receive health care services. The Medi-Cal program is, in part, governed and funded by federal Medicaid Program provisions.

Existing law provides that in-person contact between a health care provider and a patient is not required under the Medi-Cal program for services appropriately provided through telehealth, as defined, subject to reimbursement policies adopted by the department to compensate a licensed health care provider who provides health care services through telehealth that are otherwise reimbursed pursuant to the Medi-Cal program. Existing law, for purposes of payment for covered treatment or services provided through telehealth, prohibits the department from limiting the type of setting where services are provided for the patient or by the health care provider.

This bill would require the department to allow a licensed practitioner of the healing arts or a certified substance use disorder counselor to receive Medi-Cal reimbursement for substance use disorder services provided through telehealth in accordance with the Medicaid state plan.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 14132.731 is added to the Welfare and
2 Institutions Code, immediately following Section 14132.73, to
3 read:
4 14132.731. The department shall allow a licensed practitioner
5 of the healing arts or a certified substance use disorder counselor
6 to receive Medi-Cal reimbursement for substance use disorder
7 services provided through telehealth, as defined in Section 2290.5
8 of the Business and Professions Code, in accordance with the
9 Medicaid state plan.

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