

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2017

H

1

HOUSE BILL 283

Short Title: Telehealth Fairness Act. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Lambeth, Insko, Murphy, and Dobson (Primary Sponsors).
For a complete list of sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly web site.

Referred to: Health, if favorable, Insurance

March 9, 2017

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO REQUIRE HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR TELEMEDICINE
3 SERVICES.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 **SECTION 1.** Article 50 of Chapter 58 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a
6 new section to read:

7 "**§ 58-50-305. Coverage for services provided via telemedicine.**

8 (a) As used in this section, the following definitions apply:

9 (1) Insurer. – As defined in G.S. 58-3-167(a).

10 (2) Telemedicine. – The use of interactive audio, video, or other electronic media
11 for the purposes of diagnosis, consultation, or treatment.

12 (b) Every health benefit plan shall provide coverage for health care services that are
13 provided via telemedicine if the health care service would be covered were it provided through
14 in-person consultation or in-person delivery of services between an insured and a health care
15 provider. A health benefit plan may not exclude services provided via telemedicine from coverage
16 under the plan solely because the service is not provided through an in-person consultation or
17 in-person delivery of services.

18 (c) A health care provider shall not be required to document a barrier to an in-person visit
19 prior to the delivery of services via telemedicine.

20 (d) For purposes of coverage for services provided via telemedicine, an insurer shall not
21 limit the type of setting where services may be provided to the patient or by the health care
22 provider.

23 (e) Coverage of services provided via telemedicine shall be at a rate no less than the
24 applicable rate for health care services provided through in-person consultation or in-person
25 delivery of services. A health benefit plan may contain a provision for a deductible, co-payment,
26 or coinsurance requirement for a health care service provided via telemedicine so long as the
27 deductible, co-payment, or coinsurance does not exceed the deductible, co-payment, or
28 coinsurance applicable to an in-person consultation or in-person delivery of services."

29 **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective October 1, 2017, and applies to insurance
30 contracts issued, renewed, or amended on or after that date.

