

State of Arkansas
93rd General Assembly
Regular Session, 2021

As Engrossed: S3/31/21

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1068

By: Representative Pilkington

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO CLARIFY THE TELEMEDICINE ACT; TO SPECIFY THAT THE HOME OF A PATIENT MAY BE AN ORIGINATING SITE FOR TELEMEDICINE AND THAT GROUP MEETINGS MAY BE PERFORMED VIA TELEMEDICINE; TO CLARIFY REIMBURSEMENT OF TELEMEDICINE SERVICES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO CLARIFY THE TELEMEDICINE ACT; TO SPECIFY THAT THE HOME OF A PATIENT MAY BE AN ORIGINATING SITE FOR TELEMEDICINE AND THAT GROUP MEETINGS MAY BE PERFORMED VIA TELEMEDICINE; AND TO CLARIFY REIMBURSEMENT OF TELEMEDICINE SERVICES.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 17-80-402(3), concerning the definition of "originating site" within the Telemedicine Act, is amended to read as follows:

(3)(A) "Originating site" means a site at which a patient is located at the time healthcare services are provided to him or her by means of telemedicine.

(B) "Originating site" includes the home of a patient;

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 17-80-404, concerning the appropriate use of telemedicine, is amended to add an additional subsection to read as follows:

(f)(1) A healthcare professional may use telemedicine to perform group



meetings for healthcare services, including group therapy.

(2) Telemedicine for group therapy provided to adults who are participants in a program or plan authorized and funded under 42 U.S.C. § 1396a, as approved by the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services, may only be permitted if the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services allows telemedicine for group therapy provided to adults.

(3) Telemedicine shall not be used for group therapy provided to a child who is eighteen (18) years of age or younger.

SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 23-79-1601(4), concerning the definition of "originating site" regarding coverage for services provided through telemedicine, is amended to read as follows:

(4)(A) "Originating site" means a site at which a patient is located at the time healthcare services are provided to him or her by means of telemedicine.

(B) "Originating site" includes the home of a patient;

/s/Pilkington

APPROVED: 4/19/21