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

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