

1 State of Arkansas
2 93rd General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2021
4

As Engrossed: S3/31/21

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1068

5 By: Representative Pilkington
6

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO CLARIFY THE TELEMEDICINE ACT; TO SPECIFY
9 THAT THE HOME OF A PATIENT MAY BE AN ORIGINATING SITE
10 FOR TELEMEDICINE AND THAT GROUP MEETINGS MAY BE
11 PERFORMED VIA TELEMEDICINE; TO CLARIFY REIMBURSEMENT
12 OF TELEMEDICINE SERVICES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
13
14

Subtitle

15 TO CLARIFY THE TELEMEDICINE ACT; TO
16 SPECIFY THAT THE HOME OF A PATIENT MAY BE
17 AN ORIGINATING SITE FOR TELEMEDICINE AND
18 THAT GROUP MEETINGS MAY BE PERFORMED VIA
19 TELEMEDICINE; AND TO CLARIFY
20 REIMBURSEMENT OF TELEMEDICINE SERVICES.
21
22
23

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

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

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

31 (B) "Originating site" includes the home of a patient;
32

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

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



1 meetings for healthcare services, including group therapy.

2 (2) Telemedicine for group therapy provided to adults who are
3 participants in a program or plan authorized and funded under 42 U.S.C. §
4 1396a, as approved by the United States Secretary of Health and Human
5 Services, may only be permitted if the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid
6 Services allows telemedicine for group therapy provided to adults.

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

9
10 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 23-79-1601(4), concerning the definition of
11 "originating site" regarding coverage for services provided through
12 telemedicine, is amended to read as follows:

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

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

17
18
19 /s/Pilkington

20
21
22 **APPROVED: 4/19/21**