

ARKANSAS SENATE
93rd General Assembly - Regular Session, 2021
Amendment Form

Subtitle of House Bill No. 1176

TO ENSURE THAT REIMBURSEMENT IN THE ARKANSAS MEDICAID PROGRAM FOR CERTAIN
BEHAVIORAL AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES PROVIDED VIA TELEMEDICINE CONTINUES
AFTER THE PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY CAUSED BY CORONAVIRUS 2019 (COVID-19).

Amendment No. 1 to House Bill 1176

Amend House Bill No. 1176 as engrossed H2/8/21 (version: 02/08/2021 9:54:53 AM):

Page 1, line 13, delete "(COVID-19);" and substitute "(COVID-19); TO DECLARE
AN EMERGENCY;"

AND

Delete the subtitle in its entirety and substitute:

"TO ENSURE THAT REIMBURSEMENT IN THE
ARKANSAS MEDICAID PROGRAM FOR CERTAIN
BEHAVIORAL AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES
PROVIDED VIA TELEMEDICINE CONTINUES AFTER
THE PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY; AND TO
DECLARE AN EMERGENCY."

AND

Page 3, delete line 3, and substitute the following:

"Program.

SECTION 2. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the
General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that due to the coronavirus 2019
(COVID-19) pandemic, the Department of Human Services has issued several
memorandums authorizing certain reimbursements for behavioral and mental
health services provided via telemedicine for the time period of the public
health emergency to beneficiaries in the Arkansas Medicaid Program; that on
February 26, 2021, the Governor announced that the public health emergency
was extended but the Governor was going to lift some regulations related to
the pandemic; that these reimbursements allowed behavioral and mental health
providers to ensure that the beneficiaries of the Arkansas Medicaid Program
had the services that they needed, and lifting these reimbursements to the



healthcare providers of behavioral and mental health services would greatly disadvantage and harm the beneficiaries of the Arkansas Medicaid Program who need these services; and that this act is immediately necessary to ensure that the beneficiaries of the Arkansas Medicaid Program have access to behavioral and mental health services provided via telemedicine. Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist, and this act being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall become effective on:

(1) The date of its approval by the Governor;

(2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor, the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the bill; or

(3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto."

The Amendment was read the first time, rules suspended and read the second time and _____

By: Senator B. Davis

JMB/JMB - 03-01-2021 09:37:41

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Secretary