

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  
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## 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.  
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## 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.  
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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;  
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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.

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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;

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19 /s/Pilkington  
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