

HB 2165 -- TELEMEDICINE

SPONSOR: Buchheit-Courtway

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Health and Mental Health Policy by a vote of 11 to 2. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Administrative Oversight by a vote of 9 to 0.

This bill modifies the definition of "telehealth" or "telemedicine" at Section 191.1145, RSMo, to include the use of adaptive questionnaire digital technology.

A physician-patient relationship may be established through telemedicine that includes the use of an adaptive questionnaire. A physician's designee may use a digital format through an adaptive questionnaire based on professional practice standards to establish a physician-patient relationship in order to prescribe drugs or treatment.

The bill also amends the definition of "electronic visit" or "e-visit" at Section 376.1900 to provide that any use of technology through an adaptive questionnaire shall not constitute an electronic visit.

This bill is similar to HCS HB 495 (2021).

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this bill increases access to and efficiency of simple patient care. This bill allows simple diagnoses to be done with the use of adaptive questionnaires, enabling patients to access simple medical services from home. Adaptive questionnaires have already been in use in the state under the recent state of emergency with no reported complaints of instances of disciplinary actions. Further, patient care that utilizes adaptive questionnaires is still subject to human oversight and accountability.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Buchheit-Courtway; Arnie C. Dienoff; Missouri Hospital Association; Kyle Zebley, ATA Action; Missouri Nurses Association; and SSM Health.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that telehealth services are different from what is proposed by the bill in utilizing adaptive questionnaires. Those who oppose the bill say there are concerns with the ability to accurately diagnose through the use of adaptive questionnaires. This bill does not have an adequate description of or requirements for what an adaptive questionnaire is to ensure the an adaptive questionnaire is utilized properly and any physician-patient relationship that is established ensures

quality patient care.

Testifying against the bill were Missouri Medical Association; Alexander R Hover, Missouri State Medical Association; St. Louis Area Business Health Coalition; America's Health Insurance Plans; and Blue Cross Blue Shield Of Kansas City.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill submitted written testimony, which can be found online.

Testifying on the bill was Royce E Tuck.

Written testimony has been submitted for this bill. The full written testimony can be found under Testimony on the bill page on the House website.