

ONE HUNDRED THIRD LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 260

Introduced by Nordquist, 7; Campbell, 25; Crawford, 45; Gloor, 35; Hadley, 37; McGill, 26.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to examine existing barriers to the delivery of health care services through telehealth technologies in Nebraska. This innovative health care delivery method has the potential to bring health care services to patients where provider shortages exist. Telehealth has been shown to reduce the cost of health care and increase efficiency through better management of chronic diseases, shared health professional staffing, reduced travel times, and fewer or shorter hospital stays. Telehealth offers strategies to overcome challenges to access to care in Nebraska, as well as an opportunity to promote preventive care and wellness in an effort to reduce preventable and costly medical interventions.

The issues addressed by this study shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

(1) Strategies to expand the use of telecommunications or electronic technology by licensed health care providers for diagnosis, consultation, or treatment for medically underserved areas or populations;

(2) The potential use of telecommunications or electronic technology to gather and transmit health information between the patient and the health care provider to monitor a patient's health status;

(3) The potential use of telecommunications or electronic technology to deliver patient education and public health interventions;

(4) The potential use of telecommunications or electronic technology to provide continuing medical education and consultation resources for health care providers;

(5) The standards and technology systems necessary to promote interoperability among provider systems to allow efficient information sharing;

(6) The potential advantages of participation in an interstate compact to set parameters for a unified system of multi-state licensing regarding telehealth services;

(7) The existing reimbursement structure for telehealth services in the Nebraska Medicaid program and in private insurance plans in our state;

(8) The ongoing need to protect patient privacy; and

(9) The removal of existing legal and policy barriers to realizing the full potential of telehealth services in Nebraska.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, FIRST SESSION:

1. That the Health and Human Services Committee and the Banking, Commerce and Insurance Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct a joint interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committees shall upon the conclusion of their study make a report of their findings, together with their recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature on or before December 31, 2013.