

- SUBJECT:** Providing telemedicine to certain pediatric patients through Medicaid
- COMMITTEE:** Human Services — committee substitute recommended
- VOTE:** 7 ayes — Frank, Hinojosa, Clardy, Klick, Meza, Miller, Noble
- 0 nays
- 2 absent — Deshotel, Rose
- WITNESSES:** For — Ray Tsai, Children's Health; Sarah Mills, Texas Association for Home Care and Hospice; Nora Belcher, Texas e-Health Alliance;  
*(Registered, but did not testify: Amanda Fredriksen, AARP; Stacy Wilson, Children's Hospital Association of Texas; Linda Townsend, CHRISTUS Health; Bill Kelly, City of Houston Mayor's Office; Chase Bearden, Coalition of Texans with Disabilities; Priscilla Camacho, Dallas Regional Chamber; Jill Ann Jarrell, Doctors for Change; Roberto Haddad, Doctors Hospital at Renaissance; Lindsay Lanagan, Legacy Community Health; Will Francis, National Association of Social Workers-Texas Chapter; Laurie Vangoose, Texas Association of Health Plans; Lee Johnson, Texas Council of Community Centers; Michelle Romero, Texas Medical Association; Clayton Travis, Texas Pediatric Society; Jacqueline Portillo; Jordan Weinert)*
- Against — None
- On — Stephanie Stephens, Health and Human Services Commission;  
*(Registered, but did not testify: Erin McManus, Health and Human Services Commission)*
- BACKGROUND:** Government Code sec. 531.02164 requires the executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) to establish by rule a statewide program that permits reimbursement under Medicaid for home telemonitoring services if HHSC determines that such a program would be cost-effective and feasible. The program must provide home telemonitoring services to people who are diagnosed with certain serious

health conditions and exhibit certain risk factors, such as multiple hospitalizations, a history of falls, or care access challenges.

Sec. 531.0216(f) requires HHSC to submit a biennial report on the effects of telemedicine medical services, telehealth services, and home monitoring services on Medicaid in the state to the lieutenant governor and House speaker.

Sec. 531.02176 prohibits HHSC from reimbursing providers under Medicaid for the provision of home telemonitoring services on or after September 1, 2019.

**DIGEST:** CSHB 1063 would repeal the expiration of the Medicaid telemonitoring reimbursement program and make certain changes to the program.

The bill would require the Medicaid telemonitoring program to provide home telemonitoring services to pediatric patients who were diagnosed with end-stage solid organ disease, had received an organ transplant, or required mechanical ventilation. The executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) would have to adopt rules for such a change by December 1, 2019.

HHSC would be required to include in its existing biennial reporting the cost savings to Medicaid of telemedicine, telehealth, and home telemonitoring services.

If a state agency determined that a waiver or authorization from a federal agency was necessary for implementation of any provision of the bill, the agency would be required to request the waiver and would be permitted to delay implementation of the waiver or authorization until granted.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2019.

**NOTES:** According to the Legislative Budget Board, the bill would have a negative fiscal impact of \$15.2 million in general revenue related funds through fiscal 2020-21.

