As Introduced

134th General Assembly Regular Session 2021-2022

H. B. No. 122

18

Representatives Fraizer, Holmes Cosponsors: Representatives Carfagna, Hall, Seitz

A BILL

То	amend sections 3902.30, 4723.94, 4731.2910,	1
	4732.33, and 5164.95; to amend, for the purpose	2
	of adopting a new section number as indicated in	3
	parentheses, section 4731.2910 (4743.09); and to	4
	enact sections 3701.1310, 3721.60, 4725.35,	5
	4729.284, 4730.60, 4731.741, 4734.60, 4753.20,	6
	4755.90, 4757.50, 4758.80, 4759.20, 4778.30, and	7
	5119.368 of the Revised Code to establish and	8
	modify requirements regarding the provision of	9
	telehealth services.	10

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. That sections 3902.30, 4723.94, 4731.2910,	11
4732.33, and 5164.95 be amended; section 4731.2910 (4743.09) be	12
amended for the purpose of adopting a new section number as	13
indicated in parentheses; and sections 3701.1310, 3721.60,	14
4725.35, 4729.284, 4730.60, 4731.741, 4734.60, 4753.20, 4755.90,	15
4757.50, 4758.80, 4759.20, 4778.30, and 5119.368 of the Revised	16
Code be enacted to read as follows:	17

Sec. 3701.1310. During any declared disaster, epidemic,

pandemic, public health emergency, or public safety emergency,	19
an individual with a developmental disability or any other	20
permanent disability who is in need of surgery or any other	21
health care procedure, any medical or other health care test, or	22
any clinical care visit shall be given the opportunity to have	23
at least one parent or legal guardian present if the presence of	24
the individual's parent or legal guardian is necessary to	25
alleviate any negative reaction that may be experienced by the	26
individual who is the patient.	27
The director of health may take any action necessary to	28
enforce this section.	29
Sec. 3721.60. (A) As used in this section, "long-term care	30
facility" means all of the following:	31
(1) A home, as defined in section 3721.10 of the Revised	32
Code;	33
(2) A residential facility licensed by the department of	34
mental health and addiction services under section 5119.34 of	35
the Revised Code;	36
(3) A residential facility licensed by the department of	37
developmental disabilities under section 5123.19 of the Revised	38
<u>Code;</u>	39
(4) A facility operated by a hospice care program licensed	40
by the department of health under Chapter 3712. of the Revised	41
Code that is used exclusively for care of hospice patients or	42
any other facility in which a hospice care program provides care	43
for hospice patients.	44
(B) During any declared disaster, epidemic, pandemic,	45
public health emergency, or public safety emergency, each long-	46
term care facility shall provide residents and their families	47

with a video-conference visitation option if the governor, the	48
director of health, other government official or entity, or the	49
long-term care facility determines that allowing in-person	50
visits at the facility would create a risk to the health of the	51
residents.	52
Sec. 3902.30. (A) As used in this section:	53
(1) "Cost sharing" means the cost to a covered individual	54
under a health benefit plan according to any coverage limit,	55
copayment, coinsurance, deductible, or other out-of-pocket	56
expense requirements imposed by the plan.	57
	FO
(2) "Health benefit plan," "health care services," and	58
"health plan issuer" have the same meanings as in section	59
3922.01 of the Revised Code.	60
(2) <u>(</u>3) " Health care professional" means any of the	61
following:	62
(a) A physician licensed under Chapter 1721 of the	63
(a) A physician licensed under Chapter 4731. of the	
Revised Code to practice medicine and surgery, osteopathic	64
medicine and surgery, or podiatric medicine and surgery;	65
(b) A physician assistant licensed under Chapter 4731. of	66
the Revised Code;	67
(c) An advanced practice registered nurse as defined in-	68
section 4723.01 of the Revised Code. has the same meaning as in	69
section 4743.09 of the Revised Code.	70
(3) (4) "In-person health care services" means health care	71
services delivered by a health care professional through the use	72
of any communication method where the professional and patient	73
are simultaneously present in the same geographic location.	74
(4) "Decipient" means a patient receiving bealth care	75
(4) "Recipient" means a patient receiving health care-	15

services or a health care professional with whom the provider of	76
health care services is consulting regarding the patient.	77
(5) "Telemedicine-"Telehealth_services" means a mode of-	78
providing health care services through synchronous or	79
asynchronous information and communication technology by a	80
health care professional, within the professional's scope of	81
practice, who is located at a site other than the site where the	82
recipient is locatedhas the same meaning as in section 4743.09	83
<u>of the Revised Code</u> .	84
(B)(1) A health benefit plan shall provide coverage for	85
telemedicine telehealth services on the same basis and to the	86
same extent that the plan provides coverage for the provision of	87
in-person health care services.	88
(2) A health benefit plan shall not exclude coverage for a	89
service solely because it is provided as a telemedicine	90
<u>telehealth</u> service.	91
(3) A health plan issuer shall reimburse a health care	92
professional for a telehealth service that is covered under a	93
patient's health benefit plan. Division (B)(3) of this section	94
shall not be construed to require a specific reimbursement	95
amount.	96
(C) A health benefit plan shall not impose any annual or	97
lifetime benefit maximum in relation to telemedicine_telehealth_	98
services other than such a benefit maximum imposed on all	99
benefits offered under the plan.	100
(D) This <u>(</u>D)(1) A health benefit plan shall not impose a	101
cost-sharing requirement for telehealth services that exceeds	102
the cost-sharing requirement for comparable in-person health	103
care services.	104

<u>(2)(a) A health benefit plan shall not impose a cost-</u>	105
sharing requirement for a communication when all of the	106
following apply:	107
(i) The communication was initiated by the health care	108
professional.	109
(ii) The patient consented to receive a telehealth service	110
from that provider on any prior occasion.	111
(iii) The communication is conducted for the purposes of	112
preventive health care services only.	113
(b) If a communication described in division (D)(2)(a) of	114
this section is coded based on time, then only the time the	115
health care professional spends engaged in the communication is	116
<u>billable.</u>	117
(E) This section shall not be construed as doing any	118
<u>either of the following:</u>	119
(1) Prohibiting a health benefit plan from assessing cost-	120
sharing requirements to a covered individual for telemedicine	121
services, provided that such cost sharing requirements for	122
telemedicine services are not greater than those for comparable-	123
in-person health care services;	124
(2) R equiring a health plan issuer to reimburse a health	125
care professional for any costs or fees associated with the	126
provision of telemedicine <u>telehealth</u> services that would be in	127
addition to or greater than the standard reimbursement for	128
comparable in-person health care services;	129
(3) (2) Requiring a health plan issuer to reimburse a	130
telemedicine_<u>telehealth</u>provider for telemedicine_<u>telehealth</u>	131
services at the same rate as in-person services.	132

(E) This section applies to all health benefit plans	133
issued, offered, or renewed on or after January 1, 2021.	134
(F) The superintendent of insurance may adopt rules in	135
accordance with Chapter 119. of the Revised Code as necessary to	136
carry out the requirements of this section. Any such rules are	137
not subject to the requirements of division (F) of section	138
121.95 of the Revised Code.	139
Sec. 4723.94. (A) As used in this section:	140
(1) "Facility fee" means any fee charged or billed for-	141
telemedicine services provided in a facility that is intended to	142
compensate the facility for its operational expenses and is	143
separate and distinct from a professional fee.	144
(2) "Health plan issuer" has the same meaning as in-	145
section 3922.01 of the Revised Code.	146
(3) "Telemedicine services" has the same meaning as in-	147
section 3902.30 of the Revised Code.	148
(B) A n advanced practice registered nurse providing	149
telemedicine <u>may</u> provide telehealth services shall not charge a	150
facility fee, an origination fee, or any fee associated with the	151
cost of the equipment used to provide telemedicine services to a	152
health plan issuer covering telemedicine services under <u>in</u>	153
<u>accordance with section 3902.30 4743.09 of the Revised Code.</u>	154
Sec. 4725.35. An optometrist who holds a therapeutic_	155
pharmaceutical agents certificate issued under this chapter may	156
provide telehealth services in accordance with section 4743.09	157
of the Revised Code.	158
Sec. 4729.284. A pharmacist may provide telehealth	159
services in accordance with section 4743.09 of the Revised Code.	160

Sec. 4730.60. A physician assistant may provide telehealth	161
services in accordance with section 4743.09 of the Revised Code.	162
Sec. 4731.741. A physician may provide telehealth services	163
in accordance with sections 4743.09 of the Revised Code.	164
Sec. 4732.33. (A) The state board of psychology shall	165
adopt rules governing the use of telepsychology for the purpose	166
of protecting the welfare of recipients of telepsychology	167
services and establishing requirements for the responsible use	168
of telepsychology in the practice of psychology and school	169
psychology, including supervision of persons registered with the	170
state board of psychology as described in division (B) of	171
section 4732.22 of the Revised Code. The rules shall be	172
consistent with section 4743.09 of the Revised Code.	173
(B) A psychologist or school psychologist may provide	174
telehealth services in accordance with section 4743.09 of the	174
Revised Code.	175
<u>Nevised code.</u>	170
Sec. 4734.60. A chiropractor may provide telehealth	177
services in accordance with section 4743.09 of the Revised Code.	178
Sec. 4731.2910 4743.09. (A) As used in this section:	179
(1) "Durable medical equipment" means equipment, including	180
repair and replacement parts for such equipment, that can	181
withstand repeated use, is primarily and customarily used to	182
serve a medical purpose, and generally is not useful to a person	183
in the absence of illness or injury. "Durable medical equipment"	184
includes a remote monitoring device utilized by a physician,	185
physician assistant, or advanced practice registered nurse in	186
accordance with this section.	187
(2) "Facility fee" has the same meaning as in section-	188
4723.94 of the Revised Code means any fee charged or billed for	189

telehealth services provided in a facility that is intended to	190
compensate the facility for its operational expenses and is	191
separate and distinct from a professional fee.	192
(2) [3] "Health care professional" means:	193
(2) (3) nearth care professional means.	193
(a) An advanced practice registered nurse, as defined in	194
section 4723.01 of the Revised Code;	195
(b) An optometrist licensed under Chapter 4725. of the	196
Revised Code to practice optometry under a therapeutic	197
pharmaceutical agents certificate;	198
	100
(c) A pharmacist licensed under Chapter 4729. of the	199
Revised Code;	200
(d) A physician assistant licensed under Chapter 4730. of	201
the Revised Code;	202
(a) Therefore light and which this short on Obserton 4721	202
(e) A physician licensed under this chapter Chapter 4731.	203
of the Revised Code to practice medicine and surgery,	204
osteopathic medicine and surgery, or podiatric medicine and	205
surgery;	206
(b) A physician assistant licensed under Chapter 4730.	207
(f) A psychologist or school psychologist licensed under	208
Chapter 4732. of the Revised Code;	209
(q) A chiropractor licensed under Chapter 4734. of the	210
	210
<u>Revised Code;</u>	
(h) An audiologist or speech-language pathologist licensed	212
under Chapter 4753. of the Revised Code;	213
(i) An occupational therapist or physical therapist	214
licensed under Chapter 4755. of the Revised Code;	215
(j) A professional clinical counselor, independent social	216

worker, or independent marriage and family therapist licensed	217
under Chapter 4757. of the Revised Code;	218
(k) An independent chemical dependency counselor licensed	219
under Chapter 4758. of the Revised Code;	220
(1) A dietitian licensed under Chapter 4759. of the	221
Revised Code;	222
(m) A genetic counselor licensed under Chapter 4778.	223
of the Revised Code.	224
(3) (4) "Health care professional licensing board" means	225
any of the following:	226
(a) The board of nursing;	227
(b) The state vision professionals board;	228
(c) The state board of pharmacy;	229
(d) The state medical board;	230
(e) The state board of psychology;	231
(f) The state chiropractic board;	232
(g) The state speech and hearing professionals board;	233
(h) The Ohio occupational therapy, physical therapy, and	234
athletic trainers board;	235
(i) The counselor, social worker, and marriage and family	236
therapist board;	237
(j) The chemical dependency professionals board.	238
(5) "Health plan issuer" has the same meaning as in	239
section 3922.01 of the Revised Code.	240

(4) <u>(6)</u> "Telemedicine <u>Telehealth</u>services" has the same	241
meaning as in section 3902.30 of the Revised Codemeans health	242
care services provided through the use of information and	243
communication technology by a health care professional, within	244
the professional's scope of practice, who is located at a site	245
other than the site where either of the following is located:	246
(a) The patient receiving the services;	247
(b) Another health care professional with whom the	248
provider of the services is consulting regarding the patient.	249
(B) Each health care professional licensing board shall	250
permit a health care professional under its jurisdiction to	251
provide the professional's services as telehealth services in	252
accordance with this section. The board may adopt any rules it	253
considers necessary to implement this section. The rules shall	254
be adopted in accordance with Chapter 119. of the Revised Code.	255
(C) With respect to the provision of telehealth services,	256
all of the following apply:	257
(1) A health care professional may use synchronous or	258
asynchronous technology to provide telehealth services to a	259
patient during an initial visit if the appropriate standard of	260
care for an initial visit is satisfied.	261
(2) A health care professional may deny a patient	262
telehealth services and, instead, require the patient to undergo	263
<u>an in-person visit.</u>	264
(3) When providing telehealth services in accordance with	265
this section, a health care professional shall comply with all	266
requirements under state and federal law regarding the	267
protection of patient information. A health care professional	268
shall ensure that any username or password information and any	269

electronic communications between the professional and a patient	270
are securely transmitted and stored.	271
(4) A health care professional may use technology to	272
provide telehealth services to a patient during an annual visit	273
if the appropriate standard of care for an annual visit is	274
satisfied.	275
(5) In the case of a health care professional who is a	276
physician, physician assistant, or advanced practice registered	277
nurse, both of the following apply:	278
(a) The professional may provide telehealth services to a	279
patient located outside of this state if permitted by the laws	280
of the state in which the patient is located.	281
(b) The professional may provide telehealth services	282
through the use of medical devices that enable remote	283
monitoring, including such activities as monitoring a patient's	284
blood pressure, heart rate, or glucose level.	285
(D) When a patient has consented to receiving telehealth	286
services, the health care professional who provides those	287
services is not liable in damages under any claim made on the	288
basis that the services do not meet the same standard of care	289
that would apply if the services were provided in-person.	290
(E)(1) A health care professional providing telemedicine	291
<u>telehealth</u> services shall not charge <u>a health plan issuer</u>	291
<u>covering telehealth services under section 3902.30 of the</u>	292
Revised Code any of the following: a facility fee, an	293
origination fee, or any fee associated with the cost of the	295
equipment used <u>at the provider site</u> to provide telemedicine	295
<u>telehealth</u> services to a health plan issuer covering	290
telemedicine services under section 3902.30 of the Revised Code.	298
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<u>A health care professional may charge a health plan issuer for </u>	299
durable medical equipment used at a patient or client site.	300
(2) A health care professional may negotiate with a health	301
plan issuer to establish a reimbursement rate for fees_	302
associated with the administrative costs incurred in providing	303
telehealth services as long as a patient is not responsible for	304
any portion of the fee.	305
any portion of the ree.	505
(3) A health care professional providing telehealth	306
services shall obtain a patient's consent before billing for the	307
cost of providing the services, but the requirement to do so	308
applies only once.	309
(F) Nothing in this section limits or otherwise affects	310
any other provision of the Revised Code that requires a health	311
care professional who is not a physician to practice under the	312
supervision of, in collaboration with, in consultation with, or	313
pursuant to the referral of another health care professional.	314
Sec. 4753.20. An audiologist or speech-language	315
pathologist may provide telehealth services in accordance with	316
section 4743.09 of the Revised Code.	317
Sec. 4755.90. An occupational therapist or physical	318
therapist may provide telehealth services in accordance with	319
section 4743.09 of the Revised Code.	320
Sec. 4757.50. A professional clinical counselor,	321
independent social worker, or independent marriage and family	322
therapist may provide telehealth services in accordance with	323
section 4743.09 of the Revised Code.	324
Sec. 4758.80. An independent chemical dependency counselor	325
may provide telehealth services in accordance with section	326
4743.09 of the Revised Code.	327

Sec. 4759.20. A dietitian may provide telehealth services	328
in accordance with section 4743.09 of the Revised Code.	329
Sec. 4778.30. A genetic counselor may provide telehealth	330
services in accordance with section 4743.09 of the Revised Code.	331
Sec. 5119.368. (A) As used in this section, "telehealth	332
services" has the same meaning as in section 3902.30 of the	333
Revised Code.	334
(B) Each community mental health services provider and	335
community addiction services provider shall establish written	336
policies and procedures describing how the provider will ensure	337
that staff persons assisting clients with receiving telehealth	338
services or providing telehealth services are fully trained in	339
using equipment necessary for providing the services.	340
(C) Prior to providing telehealth services to a client, a	341
provider shall describe to the client the potential risks	342
associated with receiving treatment through telehealth services	343
and shall document that the client was provided with the risks	344
and agreed to assume those risks. The risks communicated to a	345
client shall address the following:	346
(1) Clinical aspects of receiving treatment through	347
telehealth services;	348
(2) Security considerations when receiving treatment	349
through telehealth services;	350
(2) Confidentiality for individual and group courseling	2 5 1
(3) Confidentiality for individual and group counseling.	351
(D) It is the responsibility of the provider, to the	352
extent possible, to ensure contractually that any entity or	353
individuals involved in the transmission of information through	354
telehealth mechanisms guarantee that the confidentiality of the	355

information is protected.	356
(E) Every provider shall have a contingency plan for	357
providing telehealth services to clients in the event that	358
technical problems occur during the provision of those services.	359
(F) Providers shall maintain, at a minimum, the following	360
information pertaining to local resources:	361
(1) The local suicide prevention telephone hotline, if	362
available, or the national suicide prevention telephone hotline.	363
(2) Contact information for the local police and fire	364
departments.	365
The provider shall provide the client written information	366
on how to access assistance in a crisis, including one caused by	367
equipment malfunction or failure.	368
(G) It is the responsibility of the provider to ensure	369
that equipment meets standards sufficient to do the following:	370
(1) To the extent possible, ensure confidentiality of	371
<pre>communication;</pre>	372
(2) Provide for interactive communication between the	373
provider and the client;	374
(3) When providing telehealth services using synchronous	375
technology, ensure that video or audio are sufficient to enable	376
real-time interaction between the client and the provider and to	377
ensure the quality of the service provided.	378
(H) A mental health facility or unit that is serving as a	379
client site shall be maintained in such a manner that	380
appropriate staff persons are on hand at the facility or unit in	381
the event of a malfunction with the equipment used to provide	382

telehealth services.	383
(I) (1) All telehealth services provided by interactive	384
videoconferencing shall meet both of the following conditions:	385
(a) Begin with the verification of the client through a	386
name and password or personal identification number when	387
treatment services are being provided;	388
(b) Be provided in accordance with state and federal law.	389
(2) When providing telehealth services in accordance with	390
this section, a provider shall comply with all requirements	391
under state and federal law regarding the protection of patient	392
information. Each provider shall ensure that any username or	393
password information and any electronic communications between	394
the provider and a client are securely transmitted and stored.	395
(J) The department of mental health and addiction services	396
may adopt rules as it considers necessary to implement this	397
section. The rules shall be adopted in accordance with Chapter	398
119. of the Revised Code. Any such rules are not subject to the	399
requirements of division (F) of section 121.95 of the Revised	400
Code.	401
Sec. 5164.95. (A) As used in this section, "telehealth	402
service" means a health care service delivered to a patient	403
through the use of interactive audio, video, or other	404
telecommunications or electronic technology from a site other	405
than the site where the patient is located.	406
(B) The department of medicaid shall establish standards	407
for medicaid payments for health care services the department	408
determines are appropriate to be covered by the medicaid program	409
when provided as telehealth services. The standards shall be	410
established in rules adopted under section 5164.02 of the	411

Revised Code.	412
In accordance with section 5162.021 of the Revised Code,	413
the medicaid director shall adopt rules authorizing the	414
directors of other state agencies to adopt rules regarding the	415
medicaid coverage of telehealth services under programs	416
administered by the other state agencies. Any such rules adopted	417
by the medicaid director or the directors of other state	418
agencies are not subject to the requirements of division (F) of	419
section 121.95 of the Revised Code.	420
(C)(1) The following practitioners are eligible to provide	421
telehealth services covered pursuant to this section:	422
(a) A physician licensed under Chapter 4731. of the	423
Revised Code to practice medicine and surgery, osteopathic	424
medicine and surgery, or podiatric medicine and surgery;	425
meaterne and bargery, or poaracrie meaterne and bargery,	120
(b) A psychologist licensed under Chapter 4732. of the	426
Revised Code;	427
(c) A physician assistant licensed under Chapter 4730. of	428
the Revised Code;	429
(d) A clinical nurse specialist, certified nurse-midwife,	430
or certified nurse practitioner licensed under Chapter 4723. of	431
the Revised Code;	432
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(e) An independent social worker, independent marriage and	433
family therapist, or professional clinical counselor licensed	434
under Chapter 4757. of the Revised Code;	435
(f) An independent chemical dependency counselor licensed	436
under Chapter 4758. of the Revised Code;	437
(g) A supervised practitioner or supervised trainee;	438

(h) An audiologist or speech-language pathologist licensed	439
under Chapter 4753. of the Revised Code;	440
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(i) An audiology aide or speech-language pathology aide,	441
as defined in section 4753.072 of the Revised Code, or an	442
individual holding a conditional license under section 4753.071	443
of the Revised Code;	444
(j) An occupational therapist or physical therapist	445
licensed under Chapter 4755. of the Revised Code;	446
(k) An occupational therapy assistant or physical	447
therapist assistant licensed under Chapter 4755. of the Revised	448
<u>Code.</u>	449
	115
(1) A dietitian licensed under Chapter 4759. of the	450
Revised Code;	451
(m) A chiropractor licensed under Chapter 4734. of the	452
Revised Code;	453
(n) A pharmacist licensed under Chapter 4729. of the	454
Revised Code;	455
<u>Nevised code</u> ,	455
(o) A genetic counselor licensed under Chapter 4778. of	456
the Revised Code;	457
(p) An optometrist licensed under Chapter 4725. of the	458
Revised Code to practice optometry under a therapeutic	459
pharmaceutical agents certificate;	460
(q) A practitioner who provides services through a	461
medicaid school program;	462
(r) Subject to section 5119.368 of the Revised Code, a	463
practitioner authorized to provide services and supports	464
certified under section 5119.36 of the Revised Code through a	465

community mental health services provider or community addiction	466
services provider;	467
(s) Any other practitioner the medicaid director considers	468
eligible to provide telehealth services.	469
(2) The following provider types are eligible to submit	470
claims for medicaid payments for providing telehealth services:	471
(a) Any practitioner described in division (B)(1) of this	472
section, except for those described in divisions (B)(1)(g), (i),	473
and (k) of this section;	474
(b) A professional medical group;	475
(c) A federally qualified health center or rural health	476
clinic;	477
(d) An ambulatory health care clinic;	478
(e) An outpatient hospital;	479
(f) A medicaid school program;	480
(g) Subject to section 5119.368 of the Revised Code, a	481
community mental health services provider or community addiction	482
services provider that offers services and supports certified	483
under section 5119.36 of the Revised Code;	484
(h) Any other provider type the medicaid director	485
considers eligible to submit the claims for payment.	486
(D)(1) When providing telehealth services under this	487
section, a practitioner shall comply with all requirements under	488
state and federal law regarding the protection of patient	489
information. A practitioner shall ensure that any username or	490
password information and any electronic communications between	491
the practitioner and a patient are securely transmitted and	492

stored.	493
(2) When providing telehealth services under this section,	494
every practitioner site shall have access to the medical records	495
of the patient at the time telehealth services are provided.	496
Section 2. That existing sections 3902.30, 4723.94,	497
4732.33, 5164.95, and 4731.2910 of the Revised Code are hereby	498
repealed.	499
Section 3. Section 3902.30 of the Revised Code, as amended	500
by this act, applies to health benefit plans, as defined in	501
section 3922.01 of the Revised Code, that are in effect on the	502
effective date of the amendment to that section and to plans	503
that are issued, renewed, modified, or amended on or after the	504
effective date of that amendment.	505