

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2006 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**Revised**

Senate Bill 728

(Senator Teitelbaum)

Finance

Health and Government Operations

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**Telemedicine - Use and Reimbursement - Study**

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This bill requires the University of Maryland School of Medicine, in consultation with the School of Nursing and other stakeholders, to study issues regarding the use of and reimbursement for telemedicine, including the following: (1) the current use of telemedicine in the State; (2) the use of and reimbursement for telemedicine in other states; (3) the potential for telemedicine to improve access to health care in underserved areas of the State; (4) how any reimbursement for telemedicine in other states has increased access to health care; and (5) any current barriers in the State to reimbursement for telemedicine. The School of Medicine must report by January 1, 2007 on its findings to specified legislative committees.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2006.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** The study could be handled with existing University of Maryland School of Medicine resources. No effect on revenues.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** None applicable.

**Background:** Telemedicine is the use of medical information exchanged from one site to another via electronic communications to improve patients' health status. Patient consultations may use audio, video, and medical data between a patient and a physician to render a diagnosis and treatment plan. This might originate from a remote clinic to a physician's office using a direct transmission link or may include communicating to a physician over the Internet.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** American Telemedicine Association, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 20, 2006  
ncs/jr Revised - Senate Third Reader - March 24, 2006  
Revised - Enrolled Bill - April 24, 2006

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