

SENATE BILL 198

J1

4r1688
CF 4r0932

By: **Senators Pugh, Benson, Conway, Forehand, Jones–Rodwell, King, Manno,
Mathias, Montgomery, Muse, Peters, and Pinsky**

Introduced and read first time: January 16, 2014

Assigned to: Finance

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Telemedicine**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Maryland Medical Assistance Program to provide
4 certain reimbursement for certain services delivered by telemedicine; repealing
5 the limitations on the health care services delivered by telemedicine that are
6 eligible for reimbursement; and generally relating to the Maryland Medical
7 Assistance Program and telemedicine.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
9 Article – Health – General
10 Section 15–105.2
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (2009 Replacement Volume and 2013 Supplement)

13 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
14 Article – Insurance
15 Section 15–139(a)
16 Annotated Code of Maryland
17 (2011 Replacement Volume and 2013 Supplement)

18 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
19 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

20 **Article – Health – General**

21 15–105.2.

22 (a) The Program shall reimburse health care providers in accordance with
23 the requirements of Title 19, Subtitle 1, Part IV of this article.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (b) [(1) Subject to paragraph (2) of this subsection and unless] **UNLESS**
2 otherwise specifically prohibited or limited by federal or State law, the Program shall
3 reimburse a health care provider for a health care service delivered by telemedicine, as
4 defined in § 15–139 of the Insurance Article, in the same manner as the same health
5 care service is reimbursed when delivered in person.

6 [(2) Reimbursement under paragraph (1) of this subsection is required
7 only for a health care service that:

8 (i) Is medically necessary; and

9 (ii) Is provided:

- 10 1. For the treatment of cardiovascular disease or stroke;
- 11 2. In an emergency department setting; and
- 12 3. When an appropriate specialist is not available.

13 (3) The Department shall adopt regulations to carry out this
14 subsection.]

15 **Article – Insurance**

16 15–139.

17 (a) (1) In this section, “telemedicine” means, as it relates to the delivery of
18 health care services, the use of interactive audio, video, or other telecommunications
19 or electronic technology by a licensed health care provider to deliver a health care
20 service within the scope of practice of the health care provider at a site other than the
21 site at which the patient is located.

22 (2) “Telemedicine” does not include:

23 (i) an audio–only telephone conversation between a health care
24 provider and a patient;

25 (ii) an electronic mail message between a health care provider
26 and a patient; or

27 (iii) a facsimile transmission between a health care provider and
28 a patient.

29 **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED,** That this Act shall take effect
30 October 1, 2014.