

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2015

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HOUSE BILL 723

Short Title: Telehealth Fairness Act. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Lambeth, Insko, S. Martin, and Adcock (Primary Sponsors).
For a complete list of Sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly Web Site.

Referred to: Insurance.

April 15, 2015

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO REQUIRE HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR TELEMEDICINE
3 SERVICES.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 **SECTION 1.** Article 3 of Chapter 58 of the General Statutes is amended by adding
6 a new section to read:

7 **"§ 58-50-305. Coverage for telemedicine services.**

8 (a) As used in this section, the following definitions apply:

9 (1) "Health benefit plan" has the same meaning as G.S. 58-3-167(a)(1).

10 (2) "Insurer" has the same meaning as G.S. 58-3-167(a)(2).

11 (3) "Telemedicine" means two-way, real-time interactive communication
12 between the patient and the physician or practitioner at the distant site. This
13 electronic communication means the use of interactive telecommunications
14 equipment that includes, at a minimum, audio and video equipment.

15 (b) Every health benefit plan shall provide coverage for health care services that are
16 provided through telemedicine if the health care service would be covered were it provided
17 through in-person consultation between a covered individual and a health care provider. A
18 health benefit plan may not exclude telemedicine services from coverage under the plan solely
19 because the service is not provided through a face-to-face consultation."

20 **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective October 1, 2015, and applies to insurance
21 contracts issued, renewed, or amended on or after that date.

