

SENATE NO. 680

AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF TELEMEDICINE TO PROMOTE EFFICIENCY IN THE DELIVERY OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled,
And by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the executive office
2 of health and human services is hereby directed, pursuant to section 7 of chapter 118G of the
3 General Laws, to establish that health care services delivered by a certified home health agency
4 though telemedicine are reimbursable when provided to clients receiving home care services
5 that are otherwise eligible for reimbursement under the Medicaid program. Tele-home health
6 technology services are those services described in Section 2 of this act. For purposes of this
7 act, “certified home health agencies” are those home health agencies that are approved for
8 participation in the Medicare and Medicaid programs.

9 SECTION 2. For purposes of this act, tele-home health technology services include the
10 delivery of medical services and any diagnostic, consultation or treatment using interactive
11 audio, interactive video, or interactive data transmission related to health care diagnosis or

12 treatment of a patient in a home care setting. Tele-home health technology services do not
13 include telephone conversations, electronic mail messages or facsimile transmissions.

14 SECTION 3. Reimbursement for the interactive audio or interactive video components of tele-
15 home health technology services shall be based on a per visit fee equivalent to that of a nursing
16 visit fee. Reimbursement for the components of tele-home health technology services that
17 encompass remote monitoring of a patient but not on an interactive basis shall be established on
18 a per diem or monthly basis, inclusive of equipment transmission and nursing assessment.

19 SECTION 4. The executive office of health and human services shall collect data on the cost
20 savings achieved by use of tele-home health technology services, including outcome measures
21 and patient satisfaction information, six months after the effective date of this act and at the end
22 of one year following said effective date, and shall provide reports of the findings derived from
23 such data to the house and senate ways and means committees and to the joint committee on
24 health care.

25 SECTION 6. This act shall become effective sixty days following its enactment.