

OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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HB-5596

AN ACT CONCERNING TELEHEALTH. AMENDMENT

LCO No.: 7892

File Copy No.: 256

House Calendar No.: 210

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 22 \$	FY 23 \$
UConn Health Ctr.	Other Fund - Revenue Gain	See Below	See Below
Resources of the General Fund	GF - Potential Revenue Gain	See Below	See Below

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 22 \$	FY 23 \$
Various Municipalities	STATE MANDATE ¹ - Potential	See Below	See Below

Explanation

The amendment strikes the language in the underlying bill and the associated impact.

The amendment extends temporarily established provisions related to the availability of telehealth services, until June 30, 2023. This includes

¹ State mandate is defined in Sec. 2-32b(2) of the Connecticut General Statutes, "state mandate" means any state initiated constitutional, statutory or executive action that requires a local government to establish, expand or modify its activities in such a way as to necessitate additional expenditures from local revenues.

the requirement that health insurance policies maintain coverage for services provided via telehealth to the same extent services are covered when provided in-person. The amendment also prohibits reduced reimbursement levels for services provided via telehealth, and not in person.

The amendment results in additional patient care revenues to UConn Health Center. This revenue gain occurs to the extent that: (1) patients who would otherwise forego in-person care instead choose to use telehealth services, (2) the amendment provides more favorable telehealth reimbursement terms for providers than exist in current contracts between UConn Health and health carriers, and (3) patients seek out more health care due to the relative ease of telehealth, for some. UConn Health has experienced a substantial increase in telehealth usage and revenues beginning in March 2020, with revenues for FY 21 to date (\$1.8 million) equal to 1,212 times the total telehealth revenues for the calendar year 2019 (\$1,500).

The amendment could preclude future savings to fully-insured municipalities to the extent their plans' coverage would otherwise differ from the coverage required by the amendment. The impact would be reflected in premium costs when policies are renewed in FY 22.

Pursuant to federal law self-insured plans are exempt from state health mandates.

The amendment also allows the certification of medical marijuana patients via telehealth and results in a potential revenue gain to the state to the extent additional licenses are issued. Initial and renewal medical marijuana licenses are assessed a \$100 annual fee.

The amendment makes other technical and conforming changes that have no fiscal impact.

The preceding Fiscal Impact statement is prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for the purposes of information, summarization and explanation and does not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.