

By: Bhojani

H.B. No. 1051

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to health benefit plan coverage of telemedicine,
3 teledentistry, and telehealth services provided by only
4 synchronous or asynchronous audio interaction.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

6 SECTION 1. Section 1455.004(a), Insurance Code, is amended
7 to read as follows:

8 (a) A health benefit plan:

9 (1) must provide coverage for a covered health care
10 service or procedure delivered by a preferred or contracted health
11 professional to a covered patient as a telemedicine medical
12 service, teledentistry dental service, or telehealth service on the
13 same basis and to the same extent that the plan provides coverage
14 for the service or procedure in an in-person setting; and

15 (2) may not:

16 (A) exclude from coverage a covered health care
17 service or procedure delivered by a preferred or contracted health
18 professional to a covered patient as a telemedicine medical
19 service, a teledentistry dental service, or a telehealth service
20 solely because the covered health care service or procedure is not
21 provided through an in-person consultation; and

22 (B) [~~subject to Subsection (c),~~] limit, deny, or
23 reduce coverage for a covered health care service or procedure
24 delivered as a telemedicine medical service, teledentistry dental

1 service, or telehealth service based on the health professional's
2 choice of platform for delivering the service or procedure.

3 SECTION 2. Section 1455.004(c), Insurance Code, is
4 repealed.

5 SECTION 3. The repeal of Section 1455.004(c), Insurance
6 Code, by this Act, applies only to a health benefit plan delivered,
7 issued for delivery, or renewed on or after January 1, 2026. A
8 health benefit plan delivered, issued for delivery, or renewed
9 before January 1, 2026, is governed by the law as it existed
10 immediately before the effective date of this Act, and that law is
11 continued in effect for that purpose.

12 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.