

By: Price

H.B. No. 3345

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to health benefit coverage provided by certain health  
3 benefit plans for telemedicine medical services and telehealth  
4 services.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 1455.001, Insurance Code, is amended by  
7 adding Subdivision (2-a) to read as follows:

8 (2-a) "Platform" means the technology, system,  
9 software, application, modality, or other method through which a  
10 health professional remotely interfaces with a patient when  
11 providing a health care service or procedure as a telemedicine  
12 medical service or telehealth service.

13 SECTION 2. Section 1455.004, Insurance Code, is amended by  
14 amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsections (b-1) and (d) to  
15 read as follows:

16 (a) A health benefit plan:

17 (1) must provide coverage for a covered health care  
18 service or procedure delivered by a preferred or contracted health  
19 professional to a covered patient as a telemedicine medical service  
20 or telehealth service on the same basis and to the same extent that  
21 the plan provides coverage for the service or procedure in an  
22 in-person setting; and

23 (2) may not:

24 (A) exclude from coverage a covered health care

1 service or procedure delivered by a preferred or contracted health  
2 professional to a covered patient as a telemedicine medical service  
3 or a telehealth service solely because the covered health care  
4 service or procedure is not provided through an in-person  
5 consultation; and

6 (B) subject to Subsection (c), limit, deny, or  
7 reduce coverage for a covered health care service or procedure  
8 delivered as a telemedicine medical service or telehealth service  
9 based on the health professional's choice of platform for  
10 delivering the service or procedure.

11 (b-1) Subsection (b) does not authorize a health benefit  
12 plan to charge a separate deductible that applies only to a covered  
13 health care service or procedure delivered as a telemedicine  
14 medical service or telehealth service.

15 (d) A health benefit plan may not impose an annual or  
16 lifetime maximum on coverage for covered health care services or  
17 procedures delivered as telemedicine medical services or  
18 telehealth services other than the annual or lifetime maximum, if  
19 any, that applies in the aggregate to all items and services and  
20 procedures covered under the plan.

21 SECTION 3. The changes to Section 1455.004, Insurance Code,  
22 as amended by this Act, apply only to a health benefit plan  
23 delivered, issued for delivery, or renewed on or after January 1,  
24 2020. A health benefit plan delivered, issued for delivery, or  
25 renewed before January 1, 2020, is governed by the law as it existed  
26 immediately before the effective date of this Act, and that law is  
27 continued in effect for that purpose.

1 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.