

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 55th Legislature (2016)

SENATE BILL 1537

By: Pittman

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to telemedicine; amending 63 O.S. 2011, Section 1-2702, which relates to the Oklahoma Telemedicine Network; authorizing certain payments by Oklahoma Health Care Authority; providing limitations; directing promulgation of rules; and providing an effective date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 63 O.S. 2011, Section 1-2702, is amended to read as follows:

Section 1-2702. A. 1. With available state or federal funds, the State Department of Health shall be the state entity responsible for telemedicine and development of a statewide Oklahoma telemedicine network. The Department shall also be responsible for the continued development and implementation of a statewide system for the delivery of medical and other health care services through a telehealth system.

2. In order to achieve these duties, the State Board of Health shall establish a separate office within the State Department of Health which shall be known as the Oklahoma Center for Telemedicine.

1 The State Commissioner of Health shall appoint or employ a director
2 of the office who shall report to the Commissioner and the Board.
3 The Commissioner shall also employ such other personnel as necessary
4 to carry out the duties of the Center. The director and other
5 Center personnel shall have no other duties within the Department
6 except those directly related to the duties and responsibilities of
7 the Center.

8 3. The Center shall have the power and duty to:

- 9 a. assess the current status and needs of the
10 telemedicine network and telehealth in the state,
- 11 b. utilize available state and federal funds to the
12 maximum extent possible,
- 13 c. for the purposes of the continued development of
14 telehealth services in the state, engage with any and
15 all parties to encourage and assist communications
16 between entities requiring telemedicine services and
17 entities offering or providing telemedicine services,
- 18 d. resolve problems and otherwise improve the delivery of
19 telemedicine services,
- 20 e. assist and facilitate the coordination efforts of
21 hospitals and other health care facilities and
22 providers in the development and delivery of
23 telemedicine services,
- 24

- 1 f. explore ways to provide reimbursement to providers for
2 telehealth services,
3 g. explore the feasibility of providing health education
4 services through a telehealth system,
5 h. study issues of compatibility of technology, and
6 i. establish and maintain a website and a clearinghouse
7 for grant information as provided by Section 1-2703 of
8 this title.

9 B. The Department shall enter into agreements with appropriate
10 entities to provide the Center with assistance in carrying out the
11 provisions of this section. Subject to the availability of funding,
12 the Oklahoma Health Care Authority may provide reimbursement that is
13 consistent with Federal guidelines for telemedicine services
14 delivered to participants in the Oklahoma Medicaid Program.

15 C. The director of the Center may form advisory groups as is
16 necessary to work with the Center on telehealth issues.

17 D. The State Board of Health and the Oklahoma Health Care
18 Authority Board shall promulgate rules for the implementation of the
19 teleradiology responsibilities outlined in this section. The rules
20 shall be based on the American College of Radiology Standards for
21 Teleradiology.

22 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2016.
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