

## **Department of Planning and Budget**

### **2023 Fiscal Impact Statement**

**1. Bill Number:** HB1918-E

**House of Origin**    ☐ Introduced    ☐ Substitute    ☒ Engrossed

**Second House**    ☐ In Committee    ☐ Substitute    ☐ Enrolled

**2. Patron:**    Batten

**3. Committee:** Commerce and Energy

**4. Title:**    Health insurance; coverage for audio-only telehealth services.

**5. Summary:** The engrossed bill requires health insurers, health care subscription plans, and health maintenance organizations to provide coverage beginning January 1, 2024, for the cost of health care services provided through audio-only telehealth services, defined in the bill as counseling interventions designed to facilitate a patient's achievement of human development goals and remediate mental, emotional, or behavioral disorders and associated distresses that interfere with mental health and development by a mental health professional delivered to a patient via audio-only means when no other means of real-time two-way audio-visual or other telecommunications or electronic communications are available and operational to the patient or the patient does not have the capability to use such real-time two-way means of communication. The bill requires that prescribing of controlled substances via audio-only telehealth services comply with state requirements for prescribing controlled substances and all applicable federal law.

**6. Budget Amendment Necessary:** No.

**7. Fiscal Impact Estimates:** None.

**8. Fiscal Implications:** The proposed legislation is not expected to have a state fiscal impact.

**9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Department of Human Resource Management, State Corporation Commission, Department of Medical Assistance Services.

**10. Technical Amendment Necessary:** No.

**11. Other Comments:** None.