

1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act to establish a telehealth pilot program to expand access to and improve coordination and quality*
3 *of health care services in rural and medically underserved areas of the Commonwealth.*

4
5 Approved

[S 369]

6 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

7 **1.** *§ 1. That the Center for Telehealth of the University of Virginia shall, together with the Virginia*
8 *Telehealth Network, establish a telehealth pilot program to expand access to and improve the*
9 *coordination and quality of health care services in rural areas of the Commonwealth and areas of the*
10 *Commonwealth that have been identified as medically underserved by the State Department of Health*
11 *through the use of telemedicine services, as defined in § 38.2-3418.16 of the Code of Virginia, for the*
12 *purpose of providing access to health care services that would not be available to individuals in rural*
13 *and medically underserved areas of the Commonwealth without the use of telehealth technology. Such*
14 *pilot program shall include a process for establishing and providing support to patient care teams, as*
15 *defined in § 54.1-2900 of the Code of Virginia, that deliver telemedicine services through the pilot*
16 *program. Patient care teams participating in the pilot program shall include one or more patient care*
17 *team physicians, as defined in 54.1-2900, who provide leadership of the patient care team through the*
18 *use of telemedicine, and one or more nurse practitioners who are licensed in accordance with*
19 *§ 54.1-2957 of the Code of Virginia and who presently practice in or who relocate to rural or medically*
20 *underserved areas of the Commonwealth served by the pilot program.*

21 *The pilot program shall include a process for assisting nurse practitioners who seek to participate in*
22 *the pilot program with identifying and developing a written or electronic practice agreement with a*
23 *patient care team physician who will provide the required leadership of the patient care team through*
24 *the use of telemedicine, which shall include developing and maintaining a list of physicians who are*
25 *ready to serve as patient care team physicians and making such list available to nurse practitioners*
26 *seeking physicians to serve as a patient care team physician in order to participate in the pilot*
27 *program. The Center for Telehealth, the Virginia Telehealth Network, and the Department of Health*
28 *Professions shall make such list available on their respective websites for the use of nurse practitioners*
29 *seeking patient care team physicians.*

30 *The pilot program shall provide technology, training, and protocols to participating patient care*
31 *teams to assist such teams in the delivery of telemedicine services in accordance with the goals of the*
32 *pilot program. The Center for Telehealth shall provide oversight of patient care teams providing*
33 *telemedicine services as part of the pilot program and shall evaluate the success of patient care teams*
34 *in improving access to care and coordination of care through evaluation of established clinical*
35 *evidence.*

36 *The pilot program shall, to the extent possible, leverage existing resources within the Center for*
37 *Telehealth, the Virginia Telehealth Network, and communities served by the pilot program.*

38 **2.** *That the Center for Telehealth shall consult all appropriate stakeholders in establishing the pilot*
39 *program created by this act, including but not limited to the Medical Society of Virginia, the*
40 *Virginia Council of Nurse Practitioners, the Virginia Academy of Family Physicians, the Virginia*
41 *Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association,*
42 *the Virginia Community Healthcare Association, and public and private institutions of higher*
43 *education located in the Commonwealth that award medical degrees.*

44 **3.** *That the Center for Telehealth of the University of Virginia shall report to the Governor and*
45 *the General Assembly on the results of the pilot program established pursuant to this act in*
46 *establishing and supporting patient care teams providing health care services in accordance with*
47 *this act and improving access to health care services and coordination and quality of health care*
48 *services in rural and medically underserved areas of the Commonwealth by October 15, 2017.*

49 **4.** *That the provisions of this act shall expire on July 1, 2018.*