

Department of Planning and Budget

2023 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB1157

House of Origin ☒ Introduced ☐ Substitute ☐ Engrossed

Second House ☐ In Committee ☐ Substitute ☐ Enrolled

2. Patron: Marsden

3. Committee: Commerce and Labor

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

5. Summary: 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 provides that "audio-only telehealth services" does not include counseling interventions delivered by a mental health professional while such mental health professional is operating or riding in a motor vehicle unless the patient is experiencing an acute mental health crisis. 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 and State Corporation Commission

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: This bill is a companion to HB 1918, as introduced.