

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 234(L&C)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE LABOR AND COMMERCE COMMITTEE

Offered: 4/12/16

Referred: Rules

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES VAZQUEZ, Gara, Hughes, Nageak, Foster, Tarr, Talerico, Edgmon, Muñoz

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act relating to insurance coverage for mental health benefits provided through
2 telemedicine."

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

4 * **Section 1.** AS 21.42 is amended by adding a new section to read:

5 **Sec. 21.42.422. Coverage for telemedicine and mental health benefits.** A
6 health care insurer that offers, issues for delivery, or renews in the state a health care
7 insurance plan in the group or individual market that provides mental health benefits
8 shall provide coverage for mental health benefits provided through telemedicine by a
9 health care provider licensed in this state and may not require that prior in-person
10 contact occur between a health care provider and a patient before payment is made for
11 covered services.

12 * **Sec. 2.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
13 read:

14 **APPLICABILITY.** AS 21.42.422, added by sec. 1 of this Act, applies to a health care

- 1 insurance plan offered, issued for delivery, delivered, or renewed on or after the effective date
- 2 of this Act.