

House Bill 215

By: Representatives Robichaux of the 48th, Schofield of the 60th, Jackson of the 64th, Bazemore of the 63rd, Hopson of the 153rd, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 7 of Chapter 4 of Title 49 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to medical assistance generally, so as to expand the use of telehealth options in the
3 Medicaid program; to extend the temporary use of telehealth options during the pandemic
4 emergency to a permanent status; to provide for certification and training of providers of
5 medical assistance via telehealth options; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting
6 laws; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Article 7 of Chapter 4 of Title 49 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
10 medical assistance generally, is amended in Code Section 49-4-142, relating to a state plan
11 of medical assistance adopted, administered, and modified by the Department of Community
12 Health, by adding a new subsection to read as follows:

13 "(e) The department shall take all reasonable and necessary steps to obtain permanent
14 federal approval and to permanently implement the state's authorization through an
15 Appendix K submission for a temporary waiver modification due to the COVID-19
16 pandemic emergency to utilize telehealth options in accordance with federal Health

H. B. 215

17 Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) requirements where clinically
18 appropriate as a modification to in-person service delivery settings."

19 **SECTION 2.**

20 Said article is further amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

21 "49-4-143.1.

22 The department shall authorize and implement a system of certification, recertification, and
23 training of providers of medical assistance via telehealth options where appropriate, in lieu
24 of in-person observation models."

25 **SECTION 3.**

26 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.