

AN ACT concerning public aid.

**Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,
represented in the General Assembly:**

Section 5. The Illinois Public Aid Code is amended by changing Section 5-5.25 as follows:

(305 ILCS 5/5-5.25)

Sec. 5-5.25. Access to behavioral ~~psychiatric mental~~ health and medical services.

(a) The General Assembly finds that providing access to behavioral ~~psychiatric mental~~ health and medical services in a timely manner will improve the quality of life for persons suffering from ~~mental~~ illness and will contain health care costs by avoiding the need for more costly inpatient hospitalization.

(b) The Department of Healthcare and Family Services shall reimburse psychiatrists, ~~and~~ federally qualified health centers as defined in Section 1905(1)(2)(B) of the federal Social Security Act, clinical psychologists, clinical social workers, advanced practice registered nurses certified in psychiatric and mental health nursing, and mental health professionals and clinicians authorized by Illinois law to provide behavioral ~~for mental~~ health services ~~provided by psychiatrists, as authorized by Illinois law,~~ to recipients via

telehealth ~~telepsychiatry~~. The Department, by rule, shall establish: (i) criteria for such services to be reimbursed, including appropriate facilities and equipment to be used at both sites and requirements for a physician or other licensed health care professional to be present at the site where the patient is located; however, the Department shall not require that a physician or other licensed health care professional be physically present in the same room as the patient for the entire time during which the patient is receiving telehealth ~~telepsychiatry~~ services; and (ii) a method to reimburse providers for mental health services provided by telehealth ~~telepsychiatry~~.

(c) The Department shall reimburse any Medicaid certified eligible facility or provider organization that acts as the location of the patient at the time a telehealth service is rendered, including substance abuse centers licensed by the Department of Human Services' Division of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse.

(d) On and after July 1, 2012, the Department shall reduce any rate of reimbursement for services or other payments or alter any methodologies authorized by this Code to reduce any rate of reimbursement for services or other payments in accordance with Section 5-5e.

(Source: P.A. 100-385, eff. 1-1-18.)