



Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

Revised Fiscal Note

(replaces fiscal note dated March 19, 2021)

Drafting Number: LLS 21-0681 Date: April 14, 2021
Prime Sponsors: Sen. Fields; Simpson Bill Status: House Health & Insurance
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Bill Topic: COVERAGE FOR TELEHEALTH DENTAL SERVICES

Summary of Fiscal Impact: [ ] State Revenue [ ] TABOR Refund
[X] State Expenditure [X] Local Government
[ ] State Transfer [ ] Statutory Public Entity

The bill requires dental plans to include coverage for telehealth visits for services that are appropriate to provide in this manner. It increases state and local expenditures on an ongoing basis.

Appropriation Summary: No appropriation is required.

Fiscal Note Status: The revised fiscal note reflects the reengrossed bill.

Summary of Legislation

The bill requires that dental plans under Medicaid, Child Health Plan Plus (CHP+), and the jurisdiction of the Division of Insurance (DOI) include the option of conducting visits via telehealth for services that are appropriate to provide in this manner. In addition, the following requirements that currently apply to the use of telehealth under DOI-regulated health insurance plans are extended to DOI-regulated dental plans:

- providers must be reimbursed on the same basis as for an in-person visit;
cost-sharing for the insured party cannot exceed that of an in-person visit;
a carrier cannot impose an annual expenditure maximum for services delivered through telehealth; and
a carrier is not required to cover telehealth services that are not provided through HIPAA-compliant interactive audio-visual communication.

State Expenditures

State expenditures are anticipated to increase by a minimal amount, though this total is not estimated. The state pays for two categories of dental services that would be affected by the bill: state employee dental plans and (CHP+) plans (Medicaid clients already have access to telehealth for dental services).

In both cases, it is assumed that most telehealth visits would be substitutes for in-person visits rather than net increases in utilization, and the services provided would generally be low-cost. As such, the net impact on expenditures is assumed to be minimal and no change in appropriations is required.

## **Local Government**

As with state employee dental plans, the bill may lead to an increase in utilization, but overall impact on expenditures is assumed to be minimal.

## **Effective Date**

The bill takes effect upon signature of the Governor, or upon becoming law without his signature. It applies to dental plans issued on or after the bill's effective date.

## **State and Local Government Contacts**

Health Care Policy and Financing  
Public Health and Environment

Personnel  
Regulatory Agencies