

Amendment: D13

Department of Health and Human Services

Representative **GM SMITH** proposes the following amendment:

Amend:

117.135. (GP: South Carolina Telemedicine Network) From the funds appropriated to the Medical University of South Carolina for the MUSC Hospital Authority for Telemedicine and the funds appropriated and authorized for the Department of Health and Human Services, the agencies must continue the development of the South Carolina Statewide Telemedicine Network. The South Carolina Telehealth Alliance shall submit a proposal to the MUSC Hospital Authority and the Department of Health and Human Services to determine which hospitals, clinics, schools or other entities are best suited for Telemedicine partnerships.

(A) The Department of Health and Human Services shall develop or continue a program to leverage the use of teaching hospitals to provide rural physician coverage by expanding the use of Telemedicine, to include new applications such as School Based Telehealth, and Tele-ICU. The department shall also amend its policy related to reimbursement for telemedicine to add Act 301 Behavioral Health Centers as a referring site for covered telemedicine services.

(B) During the current fiscal year the Department of Health and Human Services shall contract with the MUSC Hospital Authority in the amount of ~~\$9,000,000~~ \$5,000,000 to lead the development and operation of a statewide, open access South Carolina Telemedicine Network. The MUSC Hospital Authority shall contract with each Regional Support Hub to ensure funding and support of strategic plans submitted by the Regional Support Hubs and approved by both the MUSC Hospital Authority and the Department of Health and Human Services. Institutions and other entities participating in the network must be afforded the opportunity to meaningfully participate in the development of any annual refining to the initiative's strategic plan. Working with the department, the MUSC Hospital Authority shall collaborate with Palmetto Care Connections to pursue this goal. No less than \$1,000,000 of these funds shall be allocated toward support of Palmetto Care Connections and other hospitals in South Carolina. The

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MUSC Hospital Authority must provide the department with quarterly reports regarding the funds allocation and progress of telemedicine transformation efforts and networks. These reports must include an itemization of the ultimate recipients of these funds, whether vendors, grantees, specific participating institutions, or the Medical University of South Carolina, and must distinguish between funds allocation to the university as a participating institution as opposed to those retained and used by the university in its capacity as the administering entity for the network.

(C) An Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN), as defined in Section 40-33-20(5) of the 1976 Code, working in a telehealth program may provide services pursuant to a written protocol approved by the South Carolina Board of Medical Examiners as required by Section 40-33-34 and Section 40-47-195 using electronic communications, information technology, or other means to a patient in another location with or without an intervening practitioner. APRNs practicing telehealth will be held to the same standard of care as in-person medical care. Except as provided herein, this shall not be construed to allow an APRN to perform services beyond the scope of what is authorized by Title 40, Chapter 33 and Title 40, Chapter 47.

(D) The MUSC Hospital Authority shall publish a summary report to the Governor and the General Assembly indicating the overall progress of the state's telemedicine transformation by April 1, ~~2018~~ 2019.