



Leading Requirements of Senate Bill 776

Telemedicine Task Force – Maryland Health Care Commission

July 2013

Senate Bill 776 (SB 776), *Telemedicine Task Force – Maryland Health Care Commission*, was signed into law by Governor Martin O'Malley on May 2, 2013, and goes into effect on July 1, 2013. Telemedicine, as defined in Maryland law, means the use of interactive audio, video, or other telecommunications or electronic technology by a licensed health care provider to deliver a health care service within the scope of practice of the health care provider at a site other than the site at which the patient is located.

The law requires the Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC), in conjunction with the Maryland Health Quality and Cost Council, to reconvene the 2010 Telemedicine Task Force (task force) to study the use of telehealth throughout the State. The task force consists of three advisory groups: Clinical Advisory Group, Technology Solutions and Standards Advisory Group, and Finance and Business Model Advisory Group. The law requires the task force to:

- Identify opportunities to use telehealth to improve health status and care delivery in the State, including an analysis of underserved population areas, applications for cost-effective telehealth, innovative payment models, and innovative service models for diverse care settings including chronic and acute care
- Assess factors related to telehealth, including an analysis of public and private grant funding; emerging technology and standards for security; health professional productivity, resources, and shortages; supportive uses of electronic health records and health information exchange; and multimedia uses of products and services for patient engagement, education, and outcomes
- Identify strategies for telehealth deployment in rural areas of the State to increase access to health care and meet any increased demand for health care due to the implementation of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act
- Study any other topic MHCC finds necessary to make recommendations regarding the use of telehealth in the State

The MHCC is required to submit to the Governor, Senate Finance Committee, and House Health and Government Operations Committee an interim report of the task force findings and recommendations by January 1, 2014, and a final report by December 1, 2014. The task force will be reconvening in July 2013.

Senate Bill 776 is located at: <http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2013RS/bills/sb/sb0776E.pdf>.