

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2013**

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SENATE BILL 533

Short Title: Study Telemedicine & Health Home Initiatives. (Public)

Sponsors: Senator Parmon (Primary Sponsor).

Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate.

April 1, 2013

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT REQUIRING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES TO
2 CREATE AN INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE EXPANSION OF
3 TELEMEDICINE IN THIS STATE AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A HEALTH
4 HOME INITIATIVE FOR PATIENTS WITH CHRONIC CONDITIONS.
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6 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

7 **SECTION 1.(a)** It is the intent of the General Assembly to improve access and
8 quality of care for underserved patients by enabling health care professionals to provide these
9 patients with consultations and specialty care through telemedicine, which is defined as the use
10 of synchronous video conferencing, remote patient monitoring, and asynchronous health
11 images or other health transmissions supported by mobile devices or other telecommunications
12 technology by a health care provider to deliver health care services relating to the health care
13 diagnosis or treatment of a patient at a site other than the site where the provider is located.

14 **SECTION 1.(b)** The Department of Health and Human Services, in consultation
15 with the Department of Insurance, the Division in the Department of State Treasurer
16 responsible for the State Health Plan for Teachers and State Employees, and other agencies as
17 applicable, shall create an interagency task force responsible for studying the feasibility and
18 desirability of (i) advancing the use of telemedicine in this State by requiring health insurers, as
19 defined in G.S. 108A-55.4, health maintenance organizations, the State's Medicaid Plan, and
20 the State Health Plan for Teachers and State Employees to provide the same coverage and
21 reimbursement for health care services delivered through telemedicine as that provided for
22 health care services delivered through in-person consultation and (ii) implementing a health
23 home initiative for Medicaid enrollees and other patients with multiple chronic conditions to
24 enable health care providers to communicate with one another utilizing health information
25 technology, whenever possible, to address all of the patients' health care needs in a collective,
26 comprehensive, and cost-effective manner.

27 **SECTION 1.(c)** By no later than December 1, 2014, the Task Force shall report the
28 results of its study and any recommendations to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on
29 Health and Human Services.

30 **SECTION 2.** This act is effective when it becomes law.

