

1 SENATE BILL NO. 196  
2 INTRODUCED BY W. SALES

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4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REQUIRING PAYMENT PARITY FOR HEALTH CARE SERVICES  
5 DELIVERED BY MEANS OF TELEHEALTH; AMENDING SECTIONS 33-31-111 AND 33-35-306, MCA; AND  
6 PROVIDING A DELAYED EFFECTIVE DATE."

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8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

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10 NEW SECTION. **Section 1. Payment for telehealth services.** (1) A health insurance issuer shall  
11 reimburse a health care facility or health care provider for services delivered by means of telehealth at the  
12 same rate as the issuer would reimburse the facility or provider for services delivered in person.

13 (2) A health insurance issuer may not deny or limit reimbursement based solely on the technology  
14 or equipment used to deliver the health care service if the technology or equipment:

15 (a) meets the requirements of 33-22-138; and

16 (b) is appropriate for the service provided.

17 (3) Nothing in this section prohibits a health insurance issuer and a health care facility, health care  
18 provider, or health care provider group from voluntarily negotiating alternate reimbursement rates for services  
19 covered by this section.

20 ~~(3)~~(4) For the purposes of this section, the terms "health care facility", "health care provider", and  
21 "telehealth" have the meanings provided in 33-22-138.

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23 **Section 2.** Section 33-31-111, MCA, is amended to read:

24 **"33-31-111. Statutory construction and relationship to other laws.** (1) Except as otherwise  
25 provided in this chapter, the insurance or health service corporation laws do not apply to a health maintenance  
26 organization authorized to transact business under this chapter. This provision does not apply to an insurer or  
27 health service corporation licensed and regulated pursuant to the insurance or health service corporation laws