


MEMORANDUM

DATE	April 30, 2018
TO	Board of Psychology
FROM	 Cherise Burns Central Services Manager
SUBJECT	Agenda Item #21(b)(2)(Q) – AB 2861 (Salas) Medi-Cal: Telehealth: Substance Use Disorder Services

Background:

Under current law, the Medi-Cal program does not allow a licensed practitioner of the healing arts or a certified substance use disorder counselor to receive Medi-Cal reimbursement for substance use disorder services provided through telehealth. AB 2861 (Salas) would include these providers within the Medicaid State Plan. This bill would also specify that these provisions would only be implemented to the extent federal financial participation is available and only if any necessary federal approvals have been obtained.

Location: 4/26/2018 Assembly Committee on Appropriations

Status: 4/26/2018 Read second time and amended.

Status: 4/24/2018 Assembly Committee on Health (15-0-0)

Action Requested:

The Policy and Advocacy Committee recommend the Board watch AB 2861 (Salas) to monitor its potential to increase access to mental health services through the Medi-Cal program.

Attachment A: AB 2861 (Salas) Bill Text

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AB-2861 Medi-Cal: telehealth: substance use disorder services. (2017-2018)

SECTION 1. *Section 14132.731 is added to the Welfare and Institutions Code, immediately following Section 14132.73, to read:*

14132.731. *(a) The department shall allow a licensed practitioner of the healing arts or a certified substance use disorder counselor to receive Medi-Cal reimbursement for substance use disorder services provided through telehealth, as defined in Section 2290.5 of the Business and Professions Code, in accordance with the Medicaid state plan.*

(b) This section shall be implemented only to the extent federal financial participation is available and only if any necessary federal approvals have been obtained.