South Central Telehealth Resource Center covers the states of Arkansas, Mississippi, & Tennessee

A few notes about this report:

1. Bills are organized into specific telehealth "topic area".
2. The Fiscal Note (FN) Outlook: The left hand column indicates the bill's Pre-Floor Score, and the right hand column indicates the bill's actual Floor Score of the last chamber it was in (either Senate or House).
3. Regulations are listed at the end in order of their publication date.
4. If you would like to learn more about any piece of legislation or regulation, the bill numbers and regulation titles are clickable and link out to additional information.

**All Bills (by topic)**

**Broadband (1)**

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**Bills by Topic**

**Bills by Status**

- 2 - Passed First Chamber
- 1 - Passed Second Chamber
- 7 - Failed
- 5 - Failed Sine Die
- 4 - Enacted
### COVID-19 Broadband Grant Programs; create.

**Title**
COVID-19 Broadband Grant Programs; create.

**Description**
An Act To Direct The State Fiscal Officer To Transfer $65,000,000.00 To The Mississippi Electric Cooperatives Broadband Covid-19 Grant Program Fund; To Direct The State Fiscal Officer To Transfer $10,000,000.00 To The Covid-19 Broadband Provider Grant Program Fund; To Create The "Mississippi Electric Cooperatives Broadband Covid-19 Grant Program" And The "Covid-19 Broadband Provider Grant Program"; To Provide A Statement Of Legislative Intent And Findings; To Create The "Mississippi Electric Cooperatives Broadband Covid-19 Grant Program Fund" And The "Covid-19 Broadband Provider Grant Program Fund" As Special Funds In The State Treasury For The Purpose Of Providing Funds For Grants Under This Act; To Provide That The Grant Programs Created Under This Act Shall Be Administered By The Department Of Finance And Administration, For The Purpose Of Making Grants Under This Act For Eligible Expenses; To Prescribe The Requirements Of Application For The Grants; To Specify That The Use Of Grant Funds Shall Be Subject To Audit And Regulation Of The Public Utilities Staff, And Noncompliance With The Terms Of The Grant Shall Require Repayment Of Grant Monies To The State; To Specify That All Monies Shall Be Disbursed From These Special Funds In Compliance With The Requirements Of The Cares Act And Guidelines From The United States Department Of The Treasury Regarding The Use Of Monies From The Coronavirus Relief Fund; To Transfer Unobligated Monies In The Funds As Of October 1, 2020, To The Unemployment Insurance Fund; To Provide That A Declaration Of Any Portion Of This Act As Invalid Shall Not Affect The Remaining Portions Of This Act; And For Related Purposes.

**Primary Sponsors**
Joel Carter

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### Appropriations; Department of Education to provide grants to school districts to establish telehealth programs.

**Title**
Appropriations; Department of Education to provide grants to school districts to establish telehealth programs.

**Description**
An Act Making An Appropriation To The State Department Of Education To Provide Grants To School Districts For The Purpose Of Establishing And Operating Telehealth Programs At The Schools In The District For The Fiscal Year 2021.

**Primary Sponsors**
Phil Gunn
Title
Appropriation; several agencies for addressing the public health emergency due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Description

Primary Sponsors
Sam Mims

Bill Summary: Requires that the State Department of Mental Health shall provide the funds authorized under this section in equal amounts to each of the fourteen (14) community mental health regions to pay for all eligible expenditures for mental health services, which are those costs incurred by the regions that are reimbursable from funds received from the Budget Contingency Fund to address the current COVID-19 public health emergency. Eligible expenditures include establishing and operating telemedicine capabilities for the treatment of COVID-19 patients.

Introduction Date: 2020-06-23
Title
"Technology Instruction and Digital Access to Learning (TIDAL) Act"; create to establish digital learning programs for K-12 education and provide grants for electronic devices used in instruction.

Description
An Act To Create The "Technology Instruction And Digital Access To Learning (Tidal) Act," Which Shall Be Administered By The State Department Of Education To Provide Structured Guidance, Technical And Financial Assistance To Local School Districts And Public Charter Schools In The Ability To Provide Distance Learning And Online Instruction; To Prescribe The Legislative Findings And Statement Of Intent; To Define Terminology; To Require The Department To Solicit Requests For Bid Proposals From Technology Vendors To Establish An Express Products List (Epl), Or To Allow The Department To Use The Eps Compiled By The Mississippi Department Of Information Technology Services (Mdits) For The Purchase Of Information Technology, Electronic Devices, Telecommunications Equipment And Software Programs; To Authorize The Department To Revise Epl Categories Based Upon Purchasing Demands, Which Are Consistent To Provide School Districts And Charter Schools With Structured Choice In The Selection Of The Brand And Type Of Electronic Devices Available For Purchase; To Permit School Districts And Charter Schools To Acquire Devices, Equipment And/Or Software Outside Of The Eps And Structured Choice Recommendations Of The Department Upon The District's Demonstration That Such Devices, Equipment And/Or Software Meet Or Exceed The Technological Specifications And Functionality Required By The Department And Can Be Purchased At An Optimal Price Point Less Than Offered On The Department's Eps; To Specify The Criteria To Be Considered By The Department In Establishing Its Eps And Structured Choice Guide In Order To Ensure Optimal Economical Pricing And Longevity Of Device Usage; To Require That The State Department Of Education Shall Have Procured All Necessary Wi-Fi And Lte Enabled Devices, Program Components And Systems Of Product Supports And Services For The Delivery Of Digital Instruction Through Distance Learning By November 30, 2020; To Require Local School Districts And Charter Schools To Implement The Use Of Its Approved Digital Learning Program And Issue A Wi-Fi Or Lte Enabled Electronic Device To Every Public School Student; To Require The Implemented Digital Learning Programs To Support Individualized Plans For School-To-Home Connectivity To Provide Students With Access To The School District's Or Charter School's Learning Management System; To Require Each School Board To Identify A Digital Inclusion Coordinator For Each School Facility Under Its Governance, Who Shall Coordinate The Work And Report The Results Thereof To The District Superintendent To Be Submitted To The State Department Of Education For Purpose Of Inclusion In The State Superintendent Of Public Education Annual Legislative Report; To Require Every Public School Instructor And Administrator To... (click bill link to see more).

Bill Summary: Establishes a digital learning program, that includes Social-Emotional learning with access to Telehealth and/or Teletherapy.

Introduction Date: 2020-06-24
### Medicaid Reimbursement (3)

<table>
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<tr>
<th>State</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MS</td>
<td>HB 1420</td>
<td>Died In Committee 2020 03 03</td>
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**Title**
Medicaid; revise reimbursement for telehealth services provided by FQHCs and community health centers.

**Description**
An Act To Amend Section 43-13-117, Mississippi Code Of 1972, To Provide That For Telehealth Services Provided By Federally Qualified Health Centers And Community Health Centers, The Distant Or Hub Site Provider Shall Be Reimbursed The Applicable Medicaid Fee For The Telehealth Services Provided; To Provide That Telehealth Services Provided By Federally Qualified Health Centers And Community Health Centers Shall Be Considered To Be Billable At The Same Face-To-Face Encounter Rate Used For All Other Medicaid Reimbursements To Those Centers Under The Prospective Payment System; And For Related Purposes.

**Primary Sponsors**
Rob Johnson

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**Bill Summary:** Requires that for telehealth services provided by federally qualified health centers and community health centers, the distant or hub site provider shall be reimbursed the applicable Medicaid fee for the telehealth services provided. Telehealth services provided by federally qualified health centers and community health centers shall be considered to be billable at the same face-to-face encounter rate used for all other Medicaid reimbursements to federally qualified health centers and community health centers under the prospective payment system.

**Introduction Date:** 2020-02-17

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### Public Funds and Financing - As introduced, adds requirements to the spending, dedicating, or reserve of certain funds from the temporary assistance for needy families (TANF) program by the department of human services and the department of health. - Amends TCA Title 4; Title 9; Title 68 and Title 71.

**Primary Sponsors**
David Hawk

**Bill Summary:** Requires the department of health shall request and consider grant proposals, and make grant awards to qualified providers for evidence-based models and for innovations on evidence-based models, such as those using telehealth interventions and strategies for families with newborns that can improve program reach and effectiveness.

**Introduction Date:** 2020-02-05

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### Medicaid Reimbursement (3)

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<td>TN</td>
<td>HB 2509</td>
<td>Taken Off Notice For Cal In S C Public Health Subcommittee Of Health Committee 2020 05 27</td>
<td>Failed sine die</td>
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**Title**
Public Funds and Financing - As introduced, adds requirements to the spending, dedicating, or reserve of certain funds from the temporary assistance for needy families (TANF) program by the department of human services and the department of health. - Amends TCA Title 4; Title 9; Title 68 and Title 71.

**Primary Sponsors**
Raumesh Akbari

**Bill Summary:** Requires the department of health to request and consider grant proposals, and make grant awards to qualified providers for evidence-based models and for innovations on evidence-based models, such as those using telehealth interventions and strategies for families with newborns that can improve program reach and effectiveness.

**Introduction Date:** 2020-02-06

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### Medicaid Reimbursement (3)

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<td>TN</td>
<td>SB 2797</td>
<td>Passed On Second Consideration Refer To Senate Health And Welfare Committee 2020 02 10</td>
<td>Failed sine die</td>
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**Title**
Public Funds and Financing - As introduced, adds requirements to the spending, dedicating, or reserve of certain funds from the temporary assistance for needy families (TANF) program by the department of human services and the department of health. - Amends TCA Title 4; Title 9; Title 68 and Title 71.

**Primary Sponsors**
Rob Johnson

**Bill Summary:** Requires the department of health to request and consider grant proposals, and make grant awards to qualified providers for evidence-based models and for innovations on evidence-based models, such as those using telehealth interventions and strategies for families with newborns that can improve program reach and effectiveness.

**Introduction Date:** 2020-02-06

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<td>MS</td>
<td>SB 2612</td>
<td>Died In Committee 2020 03 03</td>
<td>Failed</td>
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**Title**
Medicaid reimbursement; authorize for substance abuse and mental health services for pregnant and postpartum women.

**Description**
An Act To Amend Section 43-13-117, Mississippi Code Of 1972, To Authorize Medicaid Reimbursement For Substance Abuse And Mental Health Services For Pregnant And Postpartum Women In A Community-Based, Telehealth Or Faith-Based Setting; And For Related Purposes.

**Primary Sponsors**
Barbara Blackmon

**Bill Summary:** Requires Medicaid to reimburse for substance abuse and mental health services for pregnant and postpartum women, delivered in a community based, telehealth or faith-based care setting.

**Introduction Date:** 2020-02-17

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
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<td>SB 2816</td>
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**Title**
Community health centers; revise reimbursement for telehealth services.

**Description**
An Act To Amend Section 43-13-117, Mississippi Code Of 1972, To Provide That For Telehealth Services Provided By Federally Qualified Health Centers And Community Health Centers, The Distant Or Hub Site Provider Shall Be Reimbursed The Applicable Medicaid Fee For The Telehealth Services Provided; To Provide That Telehealth Services Provided By Federally Qualified Health Centers And Community Health Centers Shall Be Considered To Be Billable At The Same Face-To-Face Encounter Rate Used For All Other Medicaid Reimbursements To Those Centers Under The Prospective Payment System; And For Related Purposes.

**Primary Sponsors**
Bobby Jackson

**Bill Summary:** Provides that for telehealth services provided by FQHCs and CHCs, the distant or hub site provider shall be reimbursed the applicable Medicaid fee for the telehealth services provided. The services shall be considered to be billable at the same face-to-face encounter rate used for all other medicaid reimbursement.

**Introduction Date:** 2020-02-17

**Network Adequacy (2)**

<table>
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<th>State</th>
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<td>HB 2829</td>
<td>Taken Off Notice For Cal In S C Life Health Insurance Subcommittee Of Insurance Committee 2020 05 28</td>
<td>Failed sine die</td>
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**Title**
Insurance, Health, Accident - As introduced, enacts the "Mental Healthcare and Substance Abuse Services Network Adequacy Act." - Amends TCA Title 4; Title 33; Title 47; Title 56 and Title 71.

**Primary Sponsors**
John Clemmons

**Bill Summary:** Allows (but does not require) the Commissioner to determine the sufficiency of network adequacy through certain criteria, such as telehealth or telemedicine for mental healthcare and substance use disorder.

**Introduction Date:** 2020-02-05
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Bill Summary: Allows (but does not require) the Commissioner to consider telehealth in determining network adequacy.</th>
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<tr>
<td>Introduction Date:</td>
<td>2020-02-04</td>
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**Primary Sponsors**

Sara Kyle

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Income tax; authorize a credit for employers who pay the cost of a qualified wellness program.</th>
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<tr>
<td>Description</td>
<td>An Act To Provide An Income Tax Credit To Employers Who Pay Costs In Connection With A Qualified Wellness Program In The Amount Of 50% Of The Costs Paid In Connection With The Qualified Wellness Program; To Limit The Amount Of The Credit That An Employer May Claim In Any One Taxable Year; To Provide That The Aggregate Amount Of Tax Credits That May Be Awarded Under This Act In Any One Calendar Year Shall Not Exceed $1,000,000.00; To Provide The Components That A Wellness Program Must Have To Qualify For The Credit; To Provide That If The Amount Of The Allowable Credit Exceeds The Income Tax Liability Of The Employer In A Taxable Year, The Amount Of The Excess Shall Not Be Refundable Or Carried Forward To Any Other Taxable Year; To Require The State Department Of Health, Office Of Preventive Health, To Certify Employers' Eligibility For The Credit; To Provide That $30,000.00 Shall Be Appropriated Annually To The Department Of Health, Office Of Preventive Health, To Assist In The Discharge Of The Office'S Duties Under This Act; And For Related Purposes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction Date:</td>
<td>2020-02-17</td>
</tr>
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**Primary Sponsors**

Jody Steverson

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Private Payer Reimbursement (4)
Title
Health insurance carriers; require to cap patient cost for prescriptions for insulin drugs.

Description
An Act To Create New Section 83-9-46.1, Mississippi Code Of 1972, To Require Health Insurance Carriers That Provide Coverage For Prescription Insulin Drugs To Cap The Total Amount That A Covered Person Is Required To Pay For A Covered Prescription Insulin Drug At An Amount Not To Exceed One Hundred Dollars Per Thirty-Day Supply Of Insulin, Regardless Of The Amount Or Type Of Insulin Needed To Fill The Covered Person'S Prescription; To Direct The Attorney General To Investigate Pricing Of Prescription Insulin Drugs That Are Made Available To Mississippi Consumers To Ensure Adequate Consumer Protections In Pricing Of Prescription Insulin Drugs And Whether Additional Consumer Protections Are Needed; To Provide That The Attorney General Shall Issue And Make Available To The Public, The Governor And The Legislature A Report Detailing His Or Her Findings From The Investigation Conducted Under This Act; To Bring Forward Section 25-15-9, Mississippi Code Of 1972, Which Provides For The State And School Employees Health Insurance Plan, For The Purpose Of Possible Amendment; To Bring Forward Section 83-9-46, Mississippi Code Of 1972, Which Provides That Health Insurance Policies And Plans Must Offer Coverage For Diabetes Treatments, For The Purpose Of Possible Amendment; And For Related Purposes.

Primary Sponsors
William Arnold

Bill Summary: Requires state employees insurance plans to include coverage for telemedicine services.

Introduction Date: 2020-02-03
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<th>State</th>
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<td>MS</td>
<td>SB 2559</td>
<td>Died In Committee 2020 03 03</td>
<td>Failed</td>
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**Title**
Health insurance carriers; require to cap patient cost for prescriptions for insulin drugs.

**Description**
An Act To Create New Section 83-9-46.1, Mississippi Code Of 1972, To Require Health Insurance Carriers That Provide Coverage For Prescription Insulin Drugs To Cap The Total Amount That A Covered Person Is Required To Pay For A Covered Prescription Insulin Drug At An Amount Not To Exceed $100.00 Per Thirty-Day Supply Of Insulin, Regardless Of The Amount Or Type Of Insulin Needed To Fill The Covered Person’S Prescription; To Direct The Attorney General To Investigate Pricing Of Prescription Insulin Drugs That Are Made Available To Mississippi Consumers To Ensure Adequate Consumer Protections In Pricing Of Prescription Insulin Drugs And Whether Additional Consumer Protections Are Needed; To Provide That The Attorney General Shall Issue And Make Available To The Public, The Governor And The Legislature A Report Detailing His Or Her Findings From The Investigation Conducted Under This Act; To Bring Forward Section 25-15-9, Mississippi Code Of 1972, Which Provides For The State And School Employees Health Insurance Plan, For The Purpose Of Possible Amendment; To Bring Forward Section 83-9-46, Mississippi Code Of 1972, Which Provides That Health Insurance Policies And Plans Must Offer Coverage For Diabetes Treatments, For The Purpose Of Possible Amendment; And For Related Purposes.

**Primary Sponsors**
Kevin Blackwell

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<td>HB 1699</td>
<td>Conf Comm Report Adopted Ayes 89 Nays 0 Pnv 0 2020 06 18</td>
<td>Passed Senate</td>
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**Bill Summary:** Requires insurance for state employees provide coverage for telemedicine services.

**Introduction Date:** 2020-02-17

**Title**
Insurance, Health, Accident - As introduced, makes various changes to the law concerning the electronic delivery of health care and its coverage under insurance policies. - Amends TCA Title 56 and Section 63-1-155.

**Primary Sponsors**
Robin Smith

**Bill Summary:** Alters reimbursement requirements for telehealth delivered services, including requiring reimbursement of a facility fee. It also requires coverage of remote patient monitoring if covered by Medicare.

**Introduction Date:** 2020-01-16
Title
Insurance, Health, Accident - As introduced, makes various changes to the law concerning the electronic delivery of health care and its coverage under insurance policies. - Amends TCA Title 56 and Section 63-1-155.

Primary Sponsors
Art Swann

Bill Summary: Alters reimbursement requirements for telehealth delivered services, including requiring reimbursement of a facility fee. It also requires coverage of remote patient monitoring if covered by Medicare.

Introduction Date: 2020-01-27

Regulatory, Licensing & Advisory Boards (1)

Title
Center for Rural Health Innovation; establish to provide services and resources to rural hospitals.

Description
An Act To Establish The Mississippi Center For Rural Health Innovation Within The Office Of Rural Health Of The State Department Of Health; To Provide That The Purpose Of The Center Is To Provide Services And Resources To Rural Hospitals, Critical Access Hospitals, Rural Health Clinics And Rural Federally Qualified Health Centers, Including Expert Analysis, Guidance, Training Opportunities And Telehealth Investment; To Specify The Minimum Areas Of Service To Be Provided By The Center; To Provide That The Department Shall Provide Personnel And Resources As Necessary To Provide For The Operation Of The Center, And Shall Be Authorized To Enter Into Contracts As Necessary To Carry Out The Purpose Of The Center; And For Related Purposes.

Primary Sponsors
Sam Mims

Bill Summary: Creates the Mississippi Center for Rural Health Innovation within the Office of Rural Health of the State Department of Health. The purpose of the center is to provide services and resources to rural hospitals, critical access hospitals, rural health clinics and rural federally qualified health centers, including expert analysis, guidance, training opportunities and telehealth investment.

Introduction Date: 2020-01-24

Substance Use Disorder (1)
Title
Community health centers; revise reimbursement for telehealth services.

Description
An Act To Amend Section 43-13-117, Mississippi Code Of 1972, To Provide That For Telehealth Services Provided By Federally Qualified Health Centers And Community Health Centers, The Distant Or Hub Site Provider Shall Be Reimbursed The Applicable Medicaid Fee For The Telehealth Services Provided; To Provide That Telehealth Services Provided By Federally Qualified Health Centers And Community Health Centers Shall Be Considered To Be Billable At The Same Face-To-Face Encounter Rate Used For All Other Medicaid Reimbursements To Those Centers Under The Prospective Payment System; And For Related Purposes.

Primary Sponsors
Bobby Jackson

Bill Summary: Provides that for telehealth services provided by FQHCs and CHCs, the distant or hub site provider shall be reimbursed the applicable Medicaid fee for the telehealth services provided. The services shall be considered to be billable at the same face-to-face encounter rate used for all other Medicaid reimbursement.

Introduction Date: 2020-02-17

Coronavirus (3)

Title
Health Care Emergency Response Liability Protection Act; create.

Description
An Act To Create The Health Care Emergency Response Liability Protection Act; To Provide Immunity From Liability To Health Care Providers And Health Care Facilities That Provide Care During A State Of Emergency In Certain Circumstances; And For Related Purposes.

Primary Sponsors
Sam Mims

Bill Summary: Provides immunity for health care professionals and facilities that are providing care during the state of emergency in certain circumstances, including persons engaged in telemedicine or telehealth.

Introduction Date: 2020-06-23
Title
COVID-19 Broadband Grant Programs; create.

Description
An Act To Direct The State Fiscal Officer To Transfer $65,000,000.00 To The Mississippi Electric Cooperatives Broadband Covid-19 Grant Program Fund; To Direct The State Fiscal Officer To Transfer $10,000,000.00 To The Covid-19 Broadband Provider Grant Program Fund; To Create The "Mississippi Electric Cooperatives Broadband Covid-19 Grant Program" And The "Covid-19 Broadband Provider Grant Program"; To Provide A Statement Of Legislative Intent And Findings; To Create The "Mississippi Electric Cooperatives Broadband Covid-19 Grant Program Fund" And The "Covid-19 Broadband Provider Grant Program Fund" As Special Funds In The State Treasury For The Purpose Of Providing Funds For Grants Under This Act; To Provide That The Grant Programs Created Under This Act Shall Be Administered By The Department Of Finance And Administration, For The Purpose Of Making Grants Under This Act For Eligible Expenses; To Prescribe The Requirements Of Application For The Grants; To Specify That The Use Of Grant Funds Shall Be Subject To Audit And Regulation Of The Public Utilities Staff, And Noncompliance With The Terms Of The Grant Shall Require Repayment Of Grant Monies To The State; To Specify That All Monies Shall Be Disbursed From These Special Funds In Compliance With The Requirements Of The Cares Act And Guidelines From The United States Department Of The Treasury Regarding The Use Of Monies From The Coronavirus Relief Fund; To Transfer Unobligated Monies In The Funds As Of October 1, 2020, To The Unemployment Insurance Fund; To Provide That A Declaration Of Any Portion Of This Act As Invalid Shall Not Affect The Remaining Portions Of This Act; And For Related Purposes.

Bill Summary: Establishes the Mississippi Electric Cooperatives Broadband COVID-19 Act. The Department of Finance and Administration, in conjunction with the Mississippi Public Utilities Staff, shall establish the "Mississippi Electric Cooperatives Broadband COVID-19 Grant Program" ("Cooperative Program") to provide grants to electric cooperatives for the purpose of expanding immediately broadband access in unserved and underserved areas of the State of Mississippi.

Introduction Date: 2020-06-18

Primary Sponsors
Joel Carter
Title

Description
An Act To Create The Mississippi Back-To-Business Liability Assurance And Health Care Emergency Response Liability Protection Act; To Provide Immunity From Suit And Liability To Health Care Providers And Health Care Facilities That Provide Care During A State Of Emergency And Certain Circumstances; To Define Duty Of Care For Premises Owners; To Provide Immunity From Suit And Liability For Individuals, State And Local Government, Associations, For-Profit And Nonprofit Entities, Religious And Charitable Organizations; To Provide Safe Harbor Compliance With Public Health Guidance; To Provide Immunity From Suit And Liability For Products Made, Sold Or Donated In Response To Covid-19 And Related Circumstances; And For Related Purposes.

Primary Sponsors
Sally Doty

Bill Summary: Provides that an health care professional, including those engaged in telehealth or telemedicine shall not be held liable for civil damages for any injuries or death resulting from or related to actual or alleged exposure or potential exposure to COVID-19 in the course of or through the performance or provision of its functions or services.

Introduction Date: 2020-06-22
## Title
Part 2635 Chapter 5: Practice of Telemedicine, Rule 5.9

## Agency
STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL LICENSURE (MS)

## Description
New rule to establish practice requirements for physicians who wish to dispense medications via technology/automated systems via telemedicine.

## Regulation Summary
Establishes practice requirements for physicians who wish to dispense medications via technology/automated systems via telemedicine.