

As Introduced

**132nd General Assembly
Regular Session
2017-2018**

H. B. No. 617

Representative West

A BILL

To enact section 3701.751 of the Revised Code to 1
establish the Ohio Telehealth Commission. 2

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. That section 3701.751 of the Revised Code be 3
enacted to read as follows: 4

Sec. 3701.751. (A) There is hereby created the Ohio 5
telehealth commission. The commission shall consist of all of 6
the following members: 7

(1) Each of the following individuals appointed by the 8
governor: 9

(a) One representative of a health care facility; 10

(b) One health care practitioner; 11

(c) One health care workforce educator; 12

(d) One individual with knowledge or expertise in 13
telehealth or health information technology; 14

(e) One representative of the telecommunications industry; 15

(f) One representative of the business community; 16

(g) One representative of a health insurer; 17

(h) One representative of a labor union whose members work 18
primarily in the health care field; 19

(i) One member of the commission on minority health; 20

(j) Two members of the general assembly, one from the 21
majority party and one from the minority party. 22

(2) The following individuals or their designees: the 23
directors of aging, developmental disabilities, education, 24
health, job and family services, and rehabilitation and 25
correction; the medicaid director; the executive director of the 26
office of health transformation; and the chairperson of the 27
public utilities commission. 28

(B) (1) Not later than thirty days after the effective date 29
of this section, the governor shall make initial appointments to 30
the commission. Of the members described in divisions (A) (1) (a) 31
to (h) of this section, four shall be appointed to initial terms 32
of two years and four shall be appointed to initial terms of 33
three years. Thereafter, terms of office for the members 34
described in divisions (A) (1) (a) to (h) shall be three years, 35
with each term ending on the same day of the same month as the 36
term it succeeds. Each of these members shall hold office from 37
the date of appointment until the end of the term for which the 38
member was appointed. Members may be reappointed. 39

The members described in divisions (A) (1) (i) and (j) and 40
division (A) (2) of this section shall hold office until the date 41
they are no longer serving in their respective positions 42
described in those divisions. 43

Vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as original 44
appointments. Any member appointed to fill a vacancy occurring 45

prior to the expiration of the term for which the member's 46
predecessor was appointed shall hold office for the remainder of 47
that term. A member shall continue in office subsequent to the 48
expiration date of the member's term until the member's 49
successor takes office or until a period of ninety days has 50
elapsed, whichever occurs first. 51

Members shall serve without compensation, but shall be 52
reimbursed for the actual and necessary expenses they incur in 53
the performance of their official duties. 54

(2) The governor shall select from among the commission's 55
members a chairperson and vice-chairperson. The commission shall 56
meet at the call of the chairperson or vice-chairperson, but not 57
less than two times each year. A majority of the members of the 58
commission constitutes a quorum. The department of health shall 59
provide meeting space, staff, and other administrative support 60
in order for the commission to carry out its duties. 61

(C) The commission shall examine telehealth, in particular 62
the use of electronic information, imaging, and communication 63
technologies to provide, support, and improve health care 64
access, delivery, diagnosis, consultation, treatment, and the 65
transfer of medical data. The commission shall review and make 66
recommendations on all of the following: 67

(1) The ways in which telehealth and health information 68
technologies, including products, devices, or systems allowing 69
for the secure collection, storage, exchange, or management of 70
patient information, may be used to increase access to and 71
reduce costs associated with health care, attract and retain 72
health care providers in rural or underserved areas, and 73
implement comprehensive health plans at the state level; 74

(2) Any barriers to the use or expansion of telehealth, including those related to payment, infrastructure, training, and workforce availability; 75
76
77

(3) The telecommunications services, assets, and infrastructure present in this state and the potential financial impact of developing or failing to develop such capabilities for purposes of telehealth services; 78
79
80
81

(4) The coordination of public and private sector initiatives to enhance networking, portal development, and connectivity in an effort to expand telehealth and telecommunications capacity; 82
83
84
85

(5) The ways in which the collaborative efforts of public and private partnerships may serve to increase and improve the use of telehealth in this state; 86
87
88

(6) Any telehealth standards and guidelines that may improve the quality of patient care and health outcomes as well as protect patient privacy and confidentiality; 89
90
91

(7) Any initiatives, projects, or grant applications involving telehealth at the state level. 92
93

(D) The commission may establish subcommittees as it considers necessary to fulfill its duties or to address specific telehealth concerns. 94
95
96

(E) The commission shall prepare on an annual basis a report describing the status of the telehealth system within the state and the adequacy and allocation of telehealth services throughout the state. The report shall also include the recommendations described in division (C) of this section and may include any other recommendations the commission considers necessary. Not later than the thirty-first day of December of 97
98
99
100
101
102
103

each year, the commission shall submit the report to the general 104
assembly in accordance with section 101.68 of the Revised Code 105
and to the governor. 106

(F) The commission is not subject to sections 101.82 to 107
101.87 of the Revised Code. 108