

SENATE, No. 2448

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 7, 2020

Sponsored by:
Senator DECLAN J. O'SCANLON, JR.
District 13 (Monmouth)

SYNOPSIS

Authorizes use of telemedicine and telehealth in connection with medicinal cannabis program for duration of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) emergency.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning the use of telemedicine and telehealth in
2 connection with the State medicinal cannabis program.

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4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

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7 1. a. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the
8 contrary, for the duration of the state of emergency or the public
9 health emergency declared in response to the coronavirus disease
10 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, whichever is longer, health care
11 practitioners may use telemedicine and telehealth to:

12 (1) authorize qualifying patients for the medical use of cannabis,
13 consistent with the requirements of P.L.2009, c.307 (C.24:6I-1 et
14 al.); and

15 (2) issue written instructions to qualifying patients for medical
16 cannabis consistent with the requirements of section 10 of
17 P.L.2009, c.307 (C.24:6I-10).

18 b. The registration of a patient who is authorized for medical
19 cannabis using telemedicine or telehealth pursuant to subsection a.
20 of this section, and the registration of any caregiver designated by
21 the patient pursuant to that authorization, shall be valid for two
22 years and shall thereafter be subject to renewal, consistent with the
23 requirements of section 4 of P.L.2009, c.307 (C.24:6I-4).

24 c. For the purposes of this section:

25 (1) The definitions set forth in section 3 of P.L.2009, c.307
26 (C.24:6I-3) are incorporated by reference.

27 (2) "Telemedicine" and "telehealth" shall have the same
28 meaning as is provided in section 1 of P.L.2017, c.117 (C.45:1-61),
29 except that any waivers, orders, or requirements issued or adopted
30 in relation to the use of telemedicine and telehealth during the
31 COVID-19 emergency shall apply in the same manner for the
32 purposes of this section, provided that nothing in this section shall
33 be construed to require a government medical assistance program or
34 private health insurer to reimburse a person for costs associated
35 with the medical use of cannabis.

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37 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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42 This bill authorizes, for the duration of the coronavirus disease
43 2019 (COVID-19) emergency, the use of telemedicine and
44 telehealth to approve qualifying patients for the medical use of
45 cannabis and to issue written instructions for medical cannabis to
46 qualifying patients. The registration of a patient or designated
47 caregiver who is registered with the medicinal cannabis program
48 pursuant to an authorization issued using telemedicine or telehealth

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1 under the bill will be valid for the standard two-year period and
2 may be renewed. Any waivers, orders, or requirements issued or
3 adopted in relation to the use of telemedicine and telehealth during
4 the COVID-19 emergency will apply in the same manner to the use
5 of telemedicine and telehealth under the bill, provided that nothing
6 in the bill is to be construed to require a government medical
7 assistance program or private health insurer to reimburse a person
8 for costs associated with the medical use of cannabis.