


**TEXAS
e-HEALTH
ALLIANCE**

Texas e-Health Alliance Texas Legislative Update

Penny Crow, MS, RHIA, SHRM-SCP
Immediate Past President, TeHA
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**TEXAS
e-HEALTH
ALLIANCE**

Background TeHA

- What is the Texas e-Health Alliance?
- State’s leading advocate, from local communities to the national level, for the use of health information technology to improve the health system for patients
- 501(c)6 nonprofit started in 2009 and serves as a trade association for HIT companies
 - As such, cannot recommend or endorse specific products

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Legislative Landscape

- Telemedicine
 - Medicaid flexibilities and technology-related connections
 - Private insurance payment parity
 - Interstate Compact for Licensure/reciprocity/credentialing
- Broadband
 - State broadband plan and office
- Data/Privacy
 - Public health interoperability
 - State agency data security
 - Consumer data privacy bills

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Telemedicine

- [HB 4](#) (Price/Buckingham)- Makes the COVID flexibilities related to Medicaid and other public benefit programs permanent and adds technology to allowable ways to reach and assess clients:
 - allows HHSC to implement telemedicine and telehealth in any program under the commission's jurisdiction as long as those services are cost-effective and clinically effective.
 - makes audio-only benefits for behavioral health services a permanent benefit and allows HHSC to implement audio-only benefits in other programs.
 - • HB 4 clarifies that Medicaid managed care organizations may reimburse providers for home telemonitoring services that are not currently included in the program benefit.

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HB 4, continued

- Directs HHSC to establish policies and procedures that allow managed care organizations to conduct assessment and service coordination activities for members receiving home and community-based services through telecommunication or information technology.
- Adds the availability of telemedicine and telehealth services to the list of criteria that must be considered by HHSC when setting provider access standards related to network adequacy for Medicaid managed care plans.
- Directs HHSC to create a consent form that will allow Medicaid and CHIP recipients to opt-in to receiving text messages from their health plan once they have enrolled.

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Telehealth Bills

- [SB 40](#) (Zaffirini/Price)- telehealth clarifications for healthcare practitioners licensed by the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation
- [HB 2056](#) (Klick) - regulation of teledentistry
- [HB 2792](#) (Darby)- Pilot project for emergency telemed in rural areas with TTUHSC
- [HB 1616](#) (Bonnen/Huffman)- Interstate Medical Licensure Compact
- [HB 1633/SB 1497](#) (Guillen/Kolkhorst)- Audiology/SLP Interstate Compact
- [HB 1903/SB 458](#) (Walle/Lucio)- Occupational Therapy licensure compact

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Private Insurance Pay Parity Bills

- [HB 515](#) (Oliverson)
- [HB 522](#) (Johnson)
- [HB 980](#) (Fierro)
- [SB 228](#) (Blanco)
- [HB 887](#) (Shaheen)
- [HB 1722](#) (Goodwin)

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Broadband

- [HB 5](#) (Ashby) and [SB 5](#) (Nichols)- establishment of a state broadband office and a state broadband plan
- [HB 1505/SB 1283](#) (Paddie/Hancock)- funding and right of way issues related to broadband attachments on utility poles
- [HB 2667](#) (Smithee)- adds Voice over Internet Protocol services to the state's Universal Service Fund program
- [HB 2911](#) (White)- Next Generation 911 service, statewide by 2025

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Public Health/Data

- [HB 4272](#) (Klick)- immunization registry to have online consent portal, streamlined and simplified consent processes
- [SB 966](#) (Kolkhorst)- legislative public health oversight board in public health disasters
- [SB 967](#) (Kolkhorst)- public health orders last 8 days unless renewed
- [SB 968](#) (Kolkhorst)- public health disaster preparedness, changes to the office of the state epidemiologist, ban on government issued vaccine passports
- [SB 969](#) (Kolkhorst)- public health disaster data, includes an interoperability study
- [SB 640](#) (Menéndez)- study on the interoperability needs and technology readiness of behavioral health service providers

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Data Privacy

- [SB 475](#) (Nelson)- cloud computing risk management program, cybersecurity/data management, written consent required for the government to retain or share biometrics, individual level contact tracing data, or GPS data
- [SB 1952](#) (Paxton) and [HB 3742](#) (Capriglione)- regulates the use of biometrics and genetic information in various settings (law enforcement, life insurance etc).

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