

6th Sub SB 161 Mental Health Systems

Amendments, (Eliason, Steve)

Anticipated Fiscal Impact:

No anticipated fiscal impact.

Summary:

Sixth Substitute SB 161 requires health plans to reimburse for “negotiated commercially reasonable” fees for mental health telehealth services. We do not believe that adding the word “negotiated” prior to “commercially reasonable” alters PEHP’s approach to mental health telehealth services, which is to pay 10% less than in-person visits for mental health telehealth visits. When providers and PEHP determine to enter into a network contract through negotiation, PEHP offers to pay commercially reasonable rates for services performed. This substitute removes the language that would require PEHP to pay the same amount for telehealth as for face-to-face visits which was the basis for PEHP’s original fiscal impact to the State Employee Health Plan. Thus, this substitute bill would have no fiscal impact.