

1 AN ACT concerning public aid.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Illinois Public Aid Code is amended by  
5 changing Section 5-5.25 as follows:

6 (305 ILCS 5/5-5.25)

7 Sec. 5-5.25. Access to psychiatric mental health services.  
8 The General Assembly finds that providing access to psychiatric  
9 mental health services in a timely manner will improve the  
10 quality of life for persons suffering from mental illness and  
11 will contain health care costs by avoiding the need for more  
12 costly inpatient hospitalization. The Department of Healthcare  
13 and Family Services shall reimburse psychiatrists and  
14 federally qualified health centers as defined in Section  
15 1905(1)(2)(B) of the federal Social Security Act for mental  
16 health services provided by psychiatrists, as authorized by  
17 Illinois law, to recipients via telepsychiatry. The  
18 Department, by rule, shall establish: (i) criteria for such  
19 services to be reimbursed, including appropriate facilities  
20 and equipment to be used at both sites and requirements for a  
21 physician or other licensed health care professional to be  
22 present at the site where the patient is located; however, the  
23 Department shall not require that a physician or other licensed

1 health care professional be physically present in the same room  
2 as the patient for the entire time during which the patient is  
3 receiving telepsychiatry services;~~7~~ and (ii) a method to  
4 reimburse providers for mental health services provided by  
5 telepsychiatry.

6 On and after July 1, 2012, the Department shall reduce any  
7 rate of reimbursement for services or other payments or alter  
8 any methodologies authorized by this Code to reduce any rate of  
9 reimbursement for services or other payments in accordance with  
10 Section 5-5e.

11 (Source: P.A. 97-689, eff. 6-14-12.)