

1 AN ACT in relation to health care.

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 adding Section 5-5.23 as follows:

6 (305 ILCS 5/5-5.23 new)

7 Sec. 5-5.23. Access to mental health services. The
8 General Assembly finds that providing access to mental health
9 services in a timely manner will improve the quality of life
10 for persons suffering from mental illness and will contain
11 health care costs by avoiding the need for more costly
12 inpatient hospitalization. The Illinois Department shall
13 reimburse advance practice nurses for mental health services
14 they provide, as authorized by Illinois law, to recipients.
15 The Illinois Department, by rule, shall develop a method to
16 reimburse providers for mental health services provided by
17 telemedicine. The reimbursement methodology for mental health
18 services provided by telemedicine shall be comparable to the
19 reimbursement methodology used by the Illinois Department for
20 other services provided by telemedicine.

21 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
22 becoming law.