

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 adding Section 5-5.25 as follows:

6 (305 ILCS 5/5-5.25 new)

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 for mental
14 health services they provide, as authorized by Illinois law, to
15 recipients via telepsychiatry. The Department, by rule, shall
16 establish a method to reimburse providers for mental health
17 services provided by telepsychiatry. The reimbursement
18 methodology for mental health services provided by
19 telemedicine shall be comparable to the reimbursement
20 methodology used by the Department for other services provided
21 by telemedicine.

22 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon

1 becoming law.