

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 and
14 federally qualified health centers as defined in Section 1905
15 (1)(2)(B) of the federal Social Security Act for mental health
16 services provided by psychiatrists, as authorized by Illinois
17 law, to recipients via telepsychiatry. The Department, by rule,
18 shall establish (i) criteria for such services to be
19 reimbursed, including appropriate facilities and equipment to
20 be used at both sites and requirements for a physician or other
21 licensed health care professional to be present at the site
22 where the patient is located, and (ii) a method to reimburse
23 providers for mental health services provided by

1 telepsychiatry.

2 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
3 becoming law.