

ASSEMBLY HEALTH COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 3978

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 2, 2022

The Assembly Health Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Assembly Bill No. 3978.

As amended, this bill authorizes home care for individuals who are disabled or elderly and requires health insurance coverage therefor.

Under the bill, a health care professional is to be permitted to provide care or treatment to an individual who is disabled or elderly in the home of the individual if the individual is unable to present for an in-person visit in a health care facility, as documented by a health care professional in the medical record of the individual based upon the good faith clinical judgment of the health care professional, and if the health care professional is able to provide adequate medical care or treatment in the home of the individual who is disabled or elderly in a manner that is consistent with the clinical standards for treatment in the applicable specialty.

Further, the bill requires health insurance carriers, including insurance companies, health service corporations, hospital service corporations, medical service corporations, health maintenance organizations authorized to issue health benefits plans in New Jersey, and any entity contracted to administer health benefits in connection with the State Health Benefits Program or School Employees' Health Benefits Program, to cover home care.

The bill defines "home care" to mean preventative, primary, specialty, or urgent care or treatment provided by a health care professional to an individual who is disabled or elderly in the home of the individual if the individual is unable to present for an in-person visit in a health care facility, as reasonably documented by a health care professional in the medical record of the individual based upon the good faith clinical judgment of the health care professional, and if the health care professional is able to provide adequate medical care or treatment in the home of the individual in a manner that is consistent with the clinical standards for treatment in the applicable specialty. "Home care" excludes custodial care.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amendments provide that, with respect to a group or individual hospital service corporation contract providing hospital or medical expense benefits, the provisions of the bill are not to be interpreted as imposing any new network adequacy requirements related specifically to the provision of home care.