

## 2020-2021 Session Telemedicine Bill Summary & Updates

### Telemedicine

Bill # & short title	Summary	Status
HB <a href="#">1196</a> , Audio-only telehealth (Riccelli)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requires reimbursement for audio-only telemedicine services if the covered person has an established relationship with the healthcare provider. Established relationship is defined as at least one in person appointment with the provider or the referring provider over the past year.</li> <li>HCA must adopt rules requiring Medicaid fee-for-service reimbursement for audio-only telemedicine services. Rate exception for rural health clinics</li> <li>Expands the definition of telemedicine for purposes of hospital privileging to include audio-only telemedicine services.</li> <li>Requires the Office of the Insurance Commissioner, WSTC, &amp; HCA to study and make recommendations regarding audio-only telemedicine uptake and impact. Report due Nov 15, 2023</li> <li>WSTC to study need for established provider-patient relationship in audio-only telemedicine. Report due December 1, 2021.</li> <li>WSTC extended until Dec. 31, 2021.</li> </ul>	Signed by Governor - Session Law effective date 7/25/2021
SSB <a href="#">5423</a> , Concerning Telemedicine consultations (Rivers)	Allows a licensed out-of-state practitioner to consult through telemedicine with a practitioner licensed in Washington State regarding the diagnosis or treatment of a patient within Washington State.	Delivered to Governor April 26 - Awaiting Signature
HB <a href="#">1378</a> , Concerning the supervision of medical assistants (Ybarra)	Allows medical assistants assisting with a telemedicine visit to be supervised through interactive audio and video telemedicine technology. [Impact is that MAs are exempt from the mandatory state telehealth training]	Signed by - Session Law effective date 7/25/2021

### Broadband Access

Bill # & short title	Summary	Status
<a href="#">HB 1457</a> , Broadband/state highways (Wylie)	<p>Facilitating the installation of broadband facilities on limited access highways.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Makes it the policy of the state that limited access highway rights-of-way be used to accommodate the deployment of broadband facilities as a critical part of the state's infrastructure.</li> <li>Requires the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) to adopt and maintain an agency policy to proactively provide broadband facility owners with information about planned highway projects to facilitate broadband installation cooperation.</li> </ul>	Delivered to Governor April 22 – Awaiting Signature

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requires the Joint Transportation Committee to oversee a consultant study to provide recommendations related to the WSDOT's role in broadband service expansion efforts, subject to appropriations.</li> </ul>	
<a href="#">HB 1336</a> , Public Broadband Act (Hansen)	<p>Creating and expanding unrestricted authority for public entities to provide telecommunications services to end users.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Authorizes public utility districts, port districts, second-class cities, towns, and counties to provide retail telecommunications services.</li> </ul>	Delivered to Governor April 26– awaiting signature
<a href="#">HB 1263</a> , Rural infrastructure (Abbarno)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requires the Department of Commerce (Department) to establish a competitive grant program to award funding to eligible public and private entities located in rural counties for public facilities.</li> <li>Requires the Department to prioritize applications according to specified factors.</li> <li>Establishes additional procedures for applications requesting funding for broadband infrastructure, including a process for existing entities providing broadband service in the proposed project area to object to the proposed broadband project.</li> <li>Requires the Department to report on the rural infrastructure grant program to the Office of Financial Management and the Legislature.</li> <li>Modifies provisions related to the System Improvement Team (Team), including removing the Team expiration date and adding a Team reporting requirement to the Legislature.</li> </ul>	Dead
<a href="#">SB 5175</a> , CERB (Nguyen)	<p>Concerning the authority of the community economic revitalization board.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establishes an appropriated loan and grant program for financing broadband infrastructure projects under the authority of the Community Economic Revitalization Board.</li> </ul>	Senate 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading - Dead
<a href="#">SB 5357</a> , Broadband accelerator (Honeyford)	<p>Establishing and making appropriations for the capital broadband investment acceleration program.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Creates the Broadband Investment Acceleration Program in the Statewide Broadband Office.</li> </ul>	Senate 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading - dead
<a href="#">SB 5383</a> , Public telecommunication services (Wellman)	<p>Authorizing public utility districts and port districts to provide retail telecommunications services in unserved areas under certain conditions.</p>	Delivered to Governor April 26 – Awaiting Signature

## Digital Equity

Bill # & short title	Summary	Status
<a href="#">HB 1460</a> , Digital Equity Act (Gregerson)	<p>Closing the digital divide by establishing excise taxes on telecommunications services to fund the expansion of the universal service programs in Washington.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establishes the Digital Equity Opportunity Grant Program and the Digital Equity Planning Grant Program.</li> <li>Creates the Digital Equity Forum</li> </ul> <p>Edits to bill: Narrowed to omit taxes and solely focus on creating a digital equity opportunity technology grants, digital equity planning grants, and a digital equity forum.</p>	Dead
<a href="#">HB 1064</a> , Disclosure of broadband in seller's disclosure (Eslick)	<p>Requiring the disclosure of high-speed internet access availability in real estate transactions. Requires seller's disclosure statement to include whether the property has access to high-speed Internet, who the Internet provider is, and the maximum upload and download speeds available. The seller may answer by providing the information or by checking the "don't know" boxes.</p>	Signed into Law - Session Law effective date 7/25/2021
<a href="#">SB 5242</a> , Media literacy & digital citizenship (Lias)	<p>Supporting media literacy and digital citizenship</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requires the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) to establish a grant program for supporting media literacy and digital citizenship.</li> <li>Requires OSPI to convene two regional conferences on the subject of media literacy and digital citizenship.</li> <li>Mandates that at least one grant awarded in each award cycle must be for developing and utilizing a curriculum that contains a focus on synthetic media.</li> </ul>	Incorporated into HB 1365 below
<a href="#">HB 1365</a> , Keeping Students Connected (Gregerson)	<p>Procuring, and supporting the use of, appropriate computers and devices for public school students and instructional staff by levying a tax on wireless devices.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Directs the educational service districts to establish:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) a procurement program for student learning devices and appropriate devices for school staff; and</li> <li>(2) a digital navigator program to provide technical assistance and other supports for students, students' families, and school staff. (edit to bill: Removed the digital navigator program at the ESDs and moved the responsibilities regarding digital navigation services to districts as a condition of and allowable use for grant funding)</li> </ul> </li> <li>Requires the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction to:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) establish a grant program to fund the purchase of student learning devices and appropriate devices for certain school staff; and</li> <li>(2) develop and implement a state plan for reducing technology equity gaps in the public schools.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Delivered to Governor April 26 – Awaiting Signature

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ (Edits to bill: Expanded the allowable uses of OSPI grant funds to cover professional development and capacity-building to provide technical assistance within districts)</li> <li>• Directs the school districts, charter schools, and state-tribal compact schools to provide learning devices to each student and appropriate devices to certain staff, beginning in the 2022-23 school year; and provides that students will not be financially responsible for damage or loss to learning devices, unless the damage or loss was willful.</li> <li>• Imposes a tax on retail sales of certain smart wireless devices, beginning October 1, 2021. (Edits to bill: removed)</li> </ul> <p>Edits to Bill Summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tax portion is completely removed</li> <li>• Expanded the allowable uses of OSPI grant funds to cover professional development and capacity-building to provide technical assistance within districts</li> <li>• Removed the digital navigator program at the ESDs and moved the responsibilities regarding digital navigation services to districts as a condition of and allowable use for grant funding</li> </ul>	
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