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# SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Anthony Portantino, Chair

2019 - 2020 Regular Session

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## AB 2164 (Robert Rivas) - Telehealth

**Version:** July 22, 2020

**Urgency:** No

**Hearing Date:** August 20, 2020

**Policy Vote:** HEALTH 8 - 0

**Mandate:** No

**Consultant:** Samantha Lui

**Bill Summary:** Assembly Bill 2164 would authorize Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) and Rural Health Centers (RHCs) to establish a patient, located within the federal designated service area of the FQHC and RHC, through synchronous interaction or asynchronous store and forward as of the date of service.

\*\*\*\*\* **ANALYSIS ADDENDUM – SUSPENSE FILE** \*\*\*\*\*

The following information is revised to reflect amendments  
adopted by the committee on August 20, 2020

### Fiscal Impact:

- Unknown, significant, ongoing cost pressures (General Fund/federal fund) related to Medi-Cal reimbursement rates, as the bill would allow for an increase in visits with a clinic establishing a patient through telehealth absent a face-to-face visit. The vast majority of the services accessed during states of emergency are typically covered regardless of the emergency.
- Staff notes especially during a state of emergency, there is likely increased utilization, including federally qualified health centers (FQHCs) and rural health centers (RHCs) billing the Prospective Payment System rate for services provided by telephone. If this change is allowed on a longer-term basis, it could lead to additional change in scope-of-service requests. Additional requests could possibly result in administrative costs to recalculate PPS rates and result in higher PPS rates paid per visit for all future visits.

**Author Amendments:** The author's amendment would include a sunset for 180 days after the state of emergency for COVID-19 pandemic has been terminated by Governor's proclamation or concurrent resolution of the Legislature, declaring it at an end.

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