

1 **TELEHEALTH FOR RURAL UTAH**

2 2006 GENERAL SESSION

3 STATE OF UTAH

4 **Chief Sponsor: Beverly Ann Evans**

5 House Sponsor: _____

7 **LONG TITLE**

8 **General Description:**

9 This bill amends the duties of the Utah Digital Health Commission.

10 **Highlighted Provisions:**

11 This bill:

- 12 ▶ amends the duties of the Utah Digital Health Commission.

13 **Monies Appropriated in this Bill:**

14 This bill appropriates:

- 15 ▶ as an ongoing appropriation subject to future budget constraints, \$500,000 from the
16 General Fund for fiscal year 2006-07 to the Utah Department of Health for the Utah
17 Digital Health Commission.

18 **Other Special Clauses:**

19 None

20 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

21 AMENDS:

- 22 **26-9f-104**, as last amended by Chapter 209, Laws of Utah 2003

24 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

25 Section 1. Section **26-9f-104** is amended to read:

26 **26-9f-104. Duties and responsibilities.**

27 The commission shall:



- 28 (1) advise and make recommendations on telehealth issues to the department, the Utah
29 Technology Commission, and other state entities;
- 30 (2) promote collaborative efforts to establish technical compatibility, uniform policies,
31 and privacy features to meet legal, financial, commercial, and other societal requirements;
- 32 (3) serve as a clearinghouse on emerging telehealth technologies;
- 33 (4) identify, address, and seek to resolve the legal, ethical, regulatory, financial,
34 medical, and technological issues that may serve as barriers to telehealth;
- 35 (5) explore and encourage the development of telehealth systems as a means of
36 reducing health costs and increasing health care quality and access, including assisting rural
37 health care providers with access to or development of electronic medical records;
- 38 (6) seek public input on telehealth issues;
- 39 (7) educate the public, state officials, and the health care community on telehealth
40 issues; and
- 41 (8) advise the governor and Legislature on:
 - 42 (a) the role of telehealth in the state;
 - 43 (b) the policy issues related to telehealth;
 - 44 (c) the changing telehealth needs and resources in the state; and
 - 45 (d) state budgetary matters related to telehealth.

46 Section 2. **Appropriation.**

47 As an ongoing appropriation subject to future budget constraints, there is appropriated
48 from the General Fund for fiscal year 2006-07, \$500,000 to the Department of Health for the
49 Utah Digital Health Service Commission.

Legislative Review Note
as of 12-7-05 10:07 AM

Based on a limited legal review, this legislation has not been determined to have a high probability of being held unconstitutional.

Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel

State Impact

This bill appropriates \$500,000 ongoing General Fund to the Department of Health for the Utah Digital Health Services Commission.

| | <u>FY 2007</u> <u>Approp.</u> | <u>FY 2008</u> <u>Approp.</u> | <u>FY 2007</u> <u>Revenue</u> | <u>FY 2008</u> <u>Revenue</u> |
|--------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| General Fund | \$500,000 | \$500,000 | \$0 | \$0 |
| TOTAL | \$500,000 | \$500,000 | \$0 | \$0 |

Individual and Business Impact

No immediate fiscal impact, though the bill may contribute to the reduction of future medical record management costs.

Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst