

**Senator Beverly Ann Evans** proposes the following substitute bill:

**TELEHEALTH FOR RURAL UTAH**

2006 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Beverly Ann Evans**

House Sponsor: Gordon E. Snow

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

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

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

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

**Monies Appropriated in this Bill:**

This bill appropriates:

- ▶ as an ongoing appropriation subject to future budget constraints, \$500,000 from the General Fund for fiscal year 2006-07 to the University of Utah for the Utah Tele-Health Network.

**Other Special Clauses:**

None

**Utah Code Sections Affected:**

AMENDS:

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

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

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 University of Utah for the Utah  
49 Tele-Health Network.

**State Impact**

This bill appropriates \$500,000 ongoing General Fund to the University of Utah for the Utah Tele-Health Network.

	<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
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$500,000</b>	<b>\$500,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

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**Individual and Business Impact**

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

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**Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst**