



Bill of the Week -1/20/25
SB 1038

**Department of Behavioral Health and
Developmental Services; best practice training;
telehealth visits for patient with disabilities.**

Bill Status

In Committee:

Senate
Education and
Health

Key Points

- Directs the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, in collaboration with other state agencies, to develop and disseminate training for providers on best practices for telehealth for patients with disabilities.
- During the pandemic, many providers began to offer telehealth as an option to patients.
- The increased use of telehealth has provided the information necessary to develop best practices.
- In 2023, VBPD released an assessment of geographic disparities in access to healthcare which contained the recommendation that training in best practices should be developed and provided to all health care providers.
- The VBPD assessment can be found at www.vbpd.virginia.gov/policy/assessments.

Impact on Virginians

Training such as that contemplated in this legislation could make a huge impact on the ability of individuals with disabilities to receive quality healthcare through telehealth. The use of telehealth can help to break down many of the barriers to quality healthcare faced by individuals with disabilities.

Bill Sponsor

Senator Stella G. Pekarsky

Democrat District 36
Parts of Fairfax County



Contact Info

senatorpekarsky@senate.virginia.gov
(804) 698-7536

Session Office:
General Assembly Building
Room No: 621
Senate of Virginia
P. O. Box 396
Richmond, VA 23218