An Act relative to telehealth and digital equity for patients
Sponsored by Representative Golden and Senator Gomez

What this bill will do:

- Establish new state programs to increase access to technology, internet connectivity, and digital literacy education
- Require interpretive services for patients with limited English proficiency and for patients who are deaf and hard of hearing be covered by insurance.
- Prohibits insurers from imposing prior authorization requirements on medically necessary telehealth visits that would not apply to in-person visits.

Facts on Telehealth at Boston Children's

1 in 10 Virtual Visits experience a technical issue, which can occur as a result of internet or device disruption.

In 2020, approximately 23k Virtual Visits required interpreter services.

Telehealth is currently offered in over 45 specialties and subspecialties.

During the pandemic, telehealth visits increased from 1% of outpatient visits to 85% at its height.

57% of families who received a device through our access program required an interpreter.

This legislation will increase equitable access to telehealth for patients who may be encountering a “digital divide” in telehealth services.

For more information, please contact Shannon Moore, Director of State Government Relations at Boston Children's at shannon.moore@childrens.harvard.edu

*Information pulled from Oct-Dec 2020 from Boston Children's telehealth platform.
The Massachusetts Telemedicine Coalition (tMED) is a statewide coalition of providers, consumer advocates, and members of the tech sector.

Thank you to our co-sponsors

**House of Representatives Lead Sponsor**
Representative Thomas Golden

**State Senate Lead Sponsor**
Senator Adam Gomez

**Co-sponsors**
- Rep John Barrett
- Rep Kenneth I. Gordon
- Rep Natalie Higgins
- Rep Vanna Howard
- Rep John Lawn
- Rep Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr.
- Rep Joan Meschino
- Rep David Robertson
- Rep Lindsay Sabadosa