

# State of Wisconsin



2021 Senate Bill 309

Date of enactment: **February 4, 2022**  
Date of publication\*: **February 5, 2022**

## 2021 WISCONSIN ACT 121

AN ACT *to renumber and amend* 250.15 (1); and *to create* 250.15 (1) (b), 250.15 (2) (d), 440.01 (1) (ab), (bm), (dg) and (hm) and 440.17 of the statutes; **relating to:** funding for free and charitable clinics and defining telehealth.

*The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:*

**SECTION 1.** 250.15 (1) of the statutes is renumbered 250.15 (1) (intro.) and amended to read:

250.15 (1) ~~DEFINITION DEFINITIONS.~~ (intro.) In this section, “community:

(a) “Community health center” means a health care entity that provides primary health care, health education and social services to low-income individuals.

**SECTION 2.** 250.15 (1) (b) of the statutes is created to read:

250.15 (1) (b) “Free and charitable clinics” means health care organizations that use a volunteer and staff model to provide health services to uninsured, underinsured, underserved, economically and socially disadvantaged, and vulnerable populations and that meet all of the following criteria:

1. The organizations are nonprofit and tax exempt under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code or are a part of a larger nonprofit, tax-exempt organization.

2. The organizations are located in this state or serve residents in this state.

3. The organizations restrict eligibility to receive services to individuals who are uninsured, underinsured, or have limited or no access to primary, specialty, or prescription care.

4. The organizations provide one or more of the following services:

a. Medical care.

b. Mental health care.

c. Dental care.

d. Prescription medications.

5. The organizations use volunteer health care professionals, nonclinical volunteers, and partnerships with other health care providers to provide the services under subd. 4.

6. The organizations are not federally qualified health centers as defined in 42 USC 1396d (l) (2) and do not receive reimbursement from the federal centers for medicare and medicaid services under a federally qualified health center payment methodology.

**SECTION 3.** 250.15 (2) (d) of the statutes is created to read:

250.15 (2) (d) To free and charitable clinics, \$1,500,000.

**SECTION 4.** 440.01 (1) (ab), (bm), (dg) and (hm) of the statutes are created to read:

440.01 (1) (ab) “Asynchronous telehealth service” means telehealth that is used to transmit medical data about a patient to a health care provider when the transmission is not a 2-way, real-time interactive communication.

\* Section 991.11, WISCONSIN STATUTES: Effective date of acts. “Every act and every portion of an act enacted by the legislature over the governor’s partial veto which does not expressly prescribe the time when it takes effect shall take effect on the day after its date of publication.”

(bm) “Interactive telehealth” means telehealth delivered using multimedia communication technology that permits 2-way, real-time, interactive communications between a health care provider at a distant site and the patient or the patient’s health care provider.

(dg) “Remote patient monitoring” means telehealth in which a patient’s medical data is transmitted to a health care provider for monitoring and response if necessary.

(hm) “Telehealth” means a practice of health care delivery, diagnosis, consultation, treatment, or transfer of medically relevant data by means of audio, video, or data communications that are used either during a patient visit

or a consultation or are used to transfer medically relevant data about a patient. “Telehealth” includes asynchronous telehealth services, interactive telehealth, and remote patient monitoring.

**SECTION 5.** 440.17 of the statutes is created to read:

**440.17 Telehealth.** If the department, an examining board, or an affiliated credentialing board promulgates rules related to telehealth, the department, the examining board, or the affiliated credentialing board shall define “telehealth” to have the meaning given in s. 440.01 (1) (hm).

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