Mississippi Telehealth Association Legislative Report of The Week of 2/3/2026

Telehealth Reimbursement and Coverage Policy

MS HB 107 — Medicaid Telehealth Reimbursement Parity Act

Author(s): Rep. Robert Johnson (D)
Status: Introduced and referred to the House Medicaid Committee and Appropriations A Committee (early January 2026)
Narrative: This bill would amend Mississippi's Medicaid statute to ensure that telehealth services provided by federally qualified health centers, rural health clinics, and community mental health centers are reimbursed at the same rate as comparable in-person encounters under Medicaid's prospective payment system. The measure is designed to eliminate reimbursement disparities that could otherwise discourage providers from offering telehealth care, especially in rural and underserved areas. By aligning telehealth reimbursement with traditional service rates, the bill aims to promote greater access and financial viability for telehealth providers statewide. At this stage it remains under committee review without reported amendments.

Telemedicine Use in Clinical and Emergency Settings

MS HB 1657 — Telemedicine Authorization and Ambulance Provider Reimbursement Act

Author(s): Rep. Deweese (R)
Status: Introduced and referred to the House Insurance Committee (January 19 2026)
Narrative: This bill would authorize the use of telemedicine specifically in the context of emergency medical services treatment or assessment of enrollees in health benefit plans, modifying existing Mississippi Code to explicitly allow remote clinical engagement during ambulance encounters. While focused in part on ambulance reimbursement rules and the publication of contracted rates by the Department of Insurance, it directly embeds telemedicine into patient assessment in pre-hospital care. The bill also revises reimbursement provisions for out-of-network ambulance services and clarifies what must appear in explanation of benefits documentation. It reflects a broader effort to integrate telemedicine into varied parts of the health system, including emergency response.

Summary and Context

In the 2026 session, **Mississippi telehealth policy initiatives center on reimbursement parity and expanding authorized uses of telemedicine** under state law. HB 107 seeks to solidify **Medicaid reimbursement parity for telehealth** with traditional services when delivered through key provider types, an important step for rural and safety-net providers. HB 1657 extends **telemedicine authorization in emergency care settings** and ties that authorization to ambulance service provider payment rules. Both bills remain early in the legislative process and are pending committee action. These efforts build on existing Mississippi law that already defines telemedicine and requires telemedicine coverage by health plans, reflecting ongoing attention to telehealth access and sustainability for providers and patients.

If you'd like, I can also provide **bill text summaries** or help **track committee actions and hearing schedules** for these telehealth measures.