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## DIGEST

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HB 570 Engrossed

2016 Regular Session

Schroder

**Abstract:** Removes the requirement that a physician practicing telemedicine maintain an office or have an arrangement with another physician who maintains an office in this state, and provides with respect to the consistency of telemedicine rules and regulations with the law.

Present law provides that in order to practice telemedicine in the state, a physician must meet the following qualifications:

- (1) Use the same standard of care as he does in person.
- (2) Possess an unrestricted license to practice medicine in Louisiana.
- (3) Upon the patient's consent, has access to his records.
- (4) Maintain a physical office within the state or an arrangement with a physician who maintains a physical office within the state, for the purpose of referrals and follow up visits when necessary.

Proposed law deletes the requirement that a physician maintain an office or an arrangement with a physician who maintains an office within the state, and otherwise retains present law.

Present law provides definitions, including the definition for "synchronous interaction", which allows for remote communication between a physician and a patient and provides that the communication be by video and audio transmission simultaneously.

Proposed law deletes the requirement that the communication be both video and audio, leaving a choice between using video or audio transmission.

Present law bestows rulemaking authority upon each state agency and each professional or occupational licensing board or commission that regulates the practice of telemedicine.

Proposed law requires that any rules and regulations promulgated be consistent with and no more restrictive than the provisions of present law.

(Amends R.S. 40:1223.3(5) and 1223.4(A); Repeals R.S. 37:1271(B)(2)(b)(iii))