

SB 135, DENTAL PRACTICE ACT AMENDMENTS,
(Christensen, A)

Anticipated Fiscal Impact:

The anticipated cost to the state health insurance risk is less than \$10,000

This bill allows dentists to practice tele-dentistry under certain conditions and for certain services. Nothing in the bill requires dental insurance to reimburse dentists for tele-dentistry services. However, PEHP currently allows remote orthodontic services to be reimbursed through the dental orthodontic benefit for the state employees. This bill would prohibit remote tele-dentistry for orthodontic services. So far about 5 state employees have used this benefit at a cost of \$750 instead of \$1500 for normal orthodontia services. Assuming that the same number of state employees would use the benefit again this year and that they would order normal braces, the bill would cost the state \$3,750.

While we have few state employees that utilize this remote orthodontic benefit, this bill would reduce the ability of this emerging area in orthodontics.