EDC endorses state funds for telemedicine study in Tallahassee

Board members of the Economic Development Council of Tallahassee-Leon County have endorsed the proposed 2014-15 state budget allocation for a $1-million study in Tallahassee on the potential benefits of telemedicine.

The EDC board voted Tuesday to send its official resolution to the office of Gov. Rick Scott indicating the council’s support of the project, which would explore how the technology of providing health care services over large communications networks could help the region’s rural communities.

“This is a pilot project that actually puts Tallahassee on the map. We are going to be gathering data with the College of Medicine at Florida State University on a telemedicine program that we already have, that we fund through various grants,” said Warren Jones, vice president of communications at Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare.

One of the project’s goals is to demonstrate the impact that telemedicine could have in addressing the shortage of physicians in Florida, and its potential for helping reduce the rate of increase in health-care costs, Jones said.

“Those are things that we will be looking at and reporting to the Legislature in this pilot project,” Jones added.

Counties included in the study would be Franklin, Calhoun, Gadsden, Jefferson, Madison, Taylor and Wakulla.