

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 2185**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**In the Year Two Thousand Nine**  
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An Act Ensuring Access to Life-Saving Colorectal Cancer Screenings ..

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 175 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after  
2 section 110M the following section:-Section 110N. Any policy, contract, agreement, plan or  
3 certificate of insurance issued, delivered or renewed within the commonwealth shall cover and  
4 reimburse for all colorectal cancer examinations and laboratory tests specified in current  
5 American Cancer Society (ACS) guidelines for colorectal cancer screening of asymptomatic  
6 individuals. Coverage or benefits shall be provided for all such colorectal screening  
7 examinations and tests that are administered at a frequency identified in the current ACS  
8 guidelines for colorectal cancer. The coverage required under this section must meet the  
9 requirements set forth in subsection (b).

10 (a) Benefits are provided under this section for a covered individual who is:(1) At least  
11 fifty (50) years of age; or

12 (2) Less than fifty (50) years of age and at high risk for colorectal cancer according to  
13 current colorectal cancer screening guidelines of the American Cancer Society; (b) To encourage  
14 colorectal cancer screenings, patients and health care providers must not be required to meet

15 burdensome criteria or overcome significant obstacles to secure such coverage. An individual  
16 shall not be required to pay an additional deductible or coinsurance for testing that is greater than  
17 an annual deductible or coinsurance established for similar benefits. If the program or contract  
18 does not cover a similar benefit, a deductible or coinsurance may not be set at a level that  
19 materially diminishes the value of the colorectal cancer benefit required. Reimbursement to  
20 health care providers for colorectal cancer screenings provided under this section shall be equal  
21 to or greater than reimbursement to health care providers provided under Title XVII of the Social  
22 Security Act (Medicare).

23 SECTION 2. Chapter 176A of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after  
24 section 8AA the following section:-

25 Section 8BB. Any contract between a subscriber and the corporation under an individual  
26 or group hospital service plan delivered or issued or renewed within the commonwealth shall  
27 provide for the coverage of colorectal screening examinations and tests that are administered at a  
28 frequency identified in the current American Cancer Society guidelines for colorectal cancer as  
29 defined in, and subject to the requirements and limitations of, Chapter 175 Section 110N.

30 SECTION 3. Chapter 176B of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after  
31 section 4AA the following section:-

32 Section 4BB. Any subscription certificate under an individual or group medical service  
33 agreement delivered, issued or renewed within the commonwealth shall provide for the coverage  
34 of colorectal screening examinations and tests that are administered at a frequency identified in  
35 the current American Cancer Society guidelines for colorectal cancer as defined in, and subject  
36 to the requirements and limitations of, Chapter 175 Section 110N.

37 SECTION 4. Chapter 176G of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after  
38 section 4S the following section:-

39 Section 4T. Any individual or group health maintenance contract shall provide for the  
40 coverage of colorectal screening examinations and tests that are administered at a frequency  
41 identified in the current American Cancer Society guidelines for colorectal cancer as defined in,  
42 and subject to the requirements and limitations of, Chapter 175 Section 110N.

43 SECTION 5. Chapter 32A of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after  
44 section 23 the following section:-

45 Section 24. Any coverage offered by the commission to any active or retired employee of  
46 the commonwealth who is insured under the group insurance commission shall provide for the  
47 coverage of colorectal screening examinations and tests that are administered at a frequency  
48 identified in the current American Cancer Society guidelines for colorectal cancer as defined in,  
49 and subject to the requirements and limitations of, Chapter 175 Section 110N.