The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Nine

An Act providing for insurance coverage for vision screening for children..

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 32A of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2006 Official
2	Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after section 17I the following section: —
3	Section 17J. The commission shall provide to any active or retired employee of the
4	commonwealth who is insured under the group insurance commission coverage for the cost of a
5	vision screening for children conducted within 12 months prior to entering kindergarten,
6	pursuant to the first paragraph of section 57 of chapter 71. The vision screening shall be
7	conducted by personnel approved by the department of public health and trained in vision
8	screening techniques developed by the department of public health in consultation with the
9	department of education.
10	For children who fail to pass the vision screening and for children diagnosed with
11	neurodevelopmental delay, the commission shall provide coverage of a comprehensive eye
12	examination performed by a licensed optometrist or ophthalmologist chosen by the child's parent
13	or guardian indicating any pertinent diagnosis, treatment, prognosis, recommendation and
14	evidence of follow-up treatment, if necessary.

SECTION 2. Chapter 118E of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
section 10F the following section: —

17	Section 10G. The division shall provide coverage for the cost of a vision screening for
18	children conducted within 12 months prior to entering kindergarten, pursuant to the first
19	paragraph of section 57 of chapter 71. The vision screening shall be conducted by personnel
20	approved by the department of public health and trained in vision screening techniques
21	developed by the department of public health in consultation with the department of education.
22	For children who fail to pass the vision screening and for children diagnosed with
23	neurodevelopmental delay, the division shall provide coverage of a comprehensive eye
24	examination performed by a licensed optometrist or ophthalmologist chosen by the child's parent
25	or guardian indicating any pertinent diagnosis, treatment, prognosis, recommendation and
26	evidence of follow-up treatment, if necessary.
27	SECTION 3. Chapter 175 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
27 28	SECTION 3. Chapter 175 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 110L the following section: —
28	section 110L the following section: —
28 29	section 110L the following section: — Section 110M. Any blanket or general policy of insurance which is delivered or issued
28 29 30	section 110L the following section: — Section 110M. Any blanket or general policy of insurance which is delivered or issued for delivery within or without the commonwealth and which covers residents of the
28 29 30 31	section 110L the following section: — Section 110M. Any blanket or general policy of insurance which is delivered or issued for delivery within or without the commonwealth and which covers residents of the commonwealth and any employees health and welfare fund which is promulgated or renewed to
 28 29 30 31 32 	section 110L the following section: — Section 110M. Any blanket or general policy of insurance which is delivered or issued for delivery within or without the commonwealth and which covers residents of the commonwealth and any employees health and welfare fund which is promulgated or renewed to any person or group of persons in the commonwealth shall provide coverage for a vision
 28 29 30 31 32 33 	section 110L the following section: — Section 110M. Any blanket or general policy of insurance which is delivered or issued for delivery within or without the commonwealth and which covers residents of the commonwealth and any employees health and welfare fund which is promulgated or renewed to any person or group of persons in the commonwealth shall provide coverage for a vision screening for children conducted within 12 months prior to entering kindergarten, pursuant to the

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For children who fail to pass the vision screening and for children diagnosed with
neurodevelopmental delay, coverage shall be provided for a comprehensive eye examination
performed by a licensed optometrist or ophthalmologist chosen by the child's parent or guardian
indicating any pertinent diagnosis, treatment, prognosis, recommendation and evidence of
follow-up treatment, if necessary.

42 SECTION 4. Chapter 176A of the General Laws, is hereby amended by inserting after
43 section 8Z the following section:—

44 Section 8AA. Any contract between a subscriber and the corporation under an individual 45 or group hospital service plan that provides hospital expense and surgical expense insurance, 46 delivered, issued, or renewed by agreement between the insurer and the policyholder; within or 47 without the commonwealth, shall provide coverage for a vision screening for children conducted 48 within 12 months prior to entering kindergarten, pursuant to the first paragraph of section 57 of 49 chapter 71. The vision screening shall be conducted by personnel approved by the department of 50 public health and trained in vision screening techniques developed by the department of public 51 health in consultation with the department of education.

For children who fail to pass the vision screening and for children diagnosed with neurodevelopmental delay, coverage shall be provided for a comprehensive eye examination performed by a licensed optometrist or ophthalmologist chosen by the child's parent or guardian indicating any pertinent diagnosis, treatment, prognosis, recommendation and evidence of follow-up treatment, if necessary.

57 SECTION 5. Chapter 176B of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
58 section 4Z the following section:—

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59	Section 4AA. Any subscription certificate under an individual or group medical service
60	agreement which provides hospital expense and surgical expense insurance, delivered, issued, or
61	renewed by agreement between the insurer and the policyholder, within or without the
62	commonwealth, shall provide coverage for a vision screening for children conducted within 12
63	months prior to entering kindergarten, pursuant to the first paragraph of section 57 of chapter 71.
64	The vision screening shall be conducted by personnel approved by the department of public
65	health and trained in vision screening techniques developed by the department of public health in
66	consultation with the department of education.
67	For children who fail to pass the vision screening and for children diagnosed with
68	neurodevelopmental delay, coverage shall be provided for a comprehensive eye examination
69	performed by a licensed optometrist or ophthalmologist chosen by the child's parent or guardian
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70	indicating any pertinent diagnosis, treatment, prognosis, recommendation and evidence of
71	follow-up treatment, if necessary.
72	SECTION 6. Chapter 176G of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
73	section 4S the following section:—
74	Section 4T. Any group health maintenance contract, except contracts providing
75	supplemental coverage to Medicare or to other government programs, delivered, issued or
76	renewed by agreement within or without the commonwealth shall provide to a member or
77	enrollee coverage for a vision screening for children conducted within 12 months prior to
78	entering kindergarten, pursuant to the first paragraph of section 57 of chapter 71. The vision
79	screening shall be conducted by personnel approved by the department of public health and

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trained in vision screening techniques developed by the department of public health inconsultation with the department of education.

82 For children who fail to pass the vision screening and for children diagnosed with 83 neurodevelopmental delay, coverage shall be provided for a comprehensive eye examination 84 performed by a licensed optometrist or ophthalmologist chosen by the child's parent or guardian 85 indicating any pertinent diagnosis, treatment, prognosis, recommendation and evidence of 86 follow-up treatment, if necessary.