

**SENATE . . . . . No. 2156**

---

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**In the Year Two Thousand Nine**  
\_\_\_\_\_

An Act for coordination of children's mental health clinicians.

*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. Section 22 of chapter 32A of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2008  
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the word “setting”, in line 85, the  
3 following words: - and, for persons under the age of 19, shall include collateral services

4           SECTION 2. Subsection (i) of said section 22 of said chapter 32A, as so appearing, is  
5 hereby amended by striking out the last paragraph.

6           SECTION 3. Said section 22 of said chapter 32A, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
7 adding the following subsection:—

8           Under this section, the following words shall have the following meanings unless the  
9 context requires otherwise:-

10           “Collateral services”, face-to-face or telephonic consultation, of at least 15 minutes in  
11 duration, by a licensed mental health professional with parties determined by the licensed mental  
12 health professional to be necessary to make a diagnosis, and develop and implement a treatment  
13 plan.

14 “Licensed mental health professional”, a licensed physician who specializes in the  
15 practice of psychiatry, a licensed psychologist, a licensed independent clinical social worker, a  
16 licensed mental health counselor, or a licensed nurse mental health clinical specialist.

17 SECTION 4. Chapter 118E of the General Laws, as so appearing, is amended by  
18 inserting after section 10F the following section:—

19 Section 10G. (a) The division shall provide coverage for collateral services performed by  
20 a licensed mental health professional for persons under 19 years of age. Nothing contained in this  
21 section shall be construed to abrogate any obligation to provide coverage for mental health  
22 services pursuant to any law or regulation of the commonwealth or the United States or under the  
23 terms or provisions of any policy, contract, or certificate. (b) Under this section, the  
24 following words shall have the following meanings unless the context requires otherwise:-

25 “Collateral services”, face-to-face or telephonic consultation, of at least 15 minutes in  
26 duration, by a licensed mental health professional with parties determined by the licensed mental  
27 health professional to be necessary to make a diagnosis, and develop and implement a treatment  
28 plan. “Licensed mental health professional”, a licensed physician who specializes in the  
29 practice of psychiatry, a licensed psychologist, a licensed independent clinical social worker, a  
30 licensed mental health counselor, or a licensed nurse mental health clinical specialist.

31 SECTION 5. Section 47B of chapter 175 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby  
32 amended by inserting after the word “setting”, in lines 98 and 99, the following words: - and, for  
33 persons under the age of 19, shall include collateral services.

34 SECTION 6. Subsection (i) of said chapter 47B of said chapter 175, as so appearing, is  
35 hereby amended by striking out the second and third paragraphs.

36 SECTION 7. Said section 47B of said chapter 175, as so appearing, is hereby further  
37 amended by adding the following 2 subsections:—

38 (j) Under this section, the following words shall have the following meanings unless the  
39 context requires otherwise:-

40 “Collateral services”, face-to-face or telephonic consultation, for at least 15 minutes of  
41 duration, by a licensed mental health professional with parties determined by the licensed mental  
42 health professional to be necessary to make a diagnosis, and develop and implement a treatment  
43 plan.

44 “Licensed mental health professional”, a licensed physician who specializes in the  
45 practice of psychiatry, a licensed psychologist, a licensed independent clinical social worker, a  
46 licensed mental health counselor, or a licensed nurse mental health clinical specialist.

47 (k) For the purposes of this section, psychopharmacological services and  
48 neuropsychological assessment services shall be treated as a medical benefit and shall be covered  
49 in a manner identical to all other medical services.

50 SECTION 8. Section 8A of chapter 176A of the General Laws, as so appearing, is  
51 hereby amended by inserting after the word “setting”, in lines 92 and 93, the following words: -  
52 and, for persons under the age of 19, shall include collateral services.

53 SECTION 9. Subsection (i) of said section 8A of said chapter 176A, as so appearing, is  
54 hereby amended by striking out the second and third paragraphs.

55 SECTION 10. Said section 8A of said chapter 176A, as so appearing, is hereby further  
56 amended by adding the following 2 subsections:—

57 (j) Under this section, the following words shall have the following meaning unless the  
58 context requires otherwise:-

59 “Collateral services”, face-to-face or telephonic consultation, of at least 15 minutes of  
60 duration, by a licensed mental health professional with parties determined by the licensed mental  
61 health professional to be necessary to make a diagnosis, and develop and implement a treatment  
62 plan.

63 “Licensed mental health professional”, a licensed physician who specializes in the  
64 practice of psychiatry, a licensed psychologist, a licensed independent clinical social worker, a  
65 licensed mental health counselor, or a licensed nurse mental health clinical specialist.

66 (k) For the purposes of this section, psychopharmacological services and  
67 neuropsychological assessment services shall be treated as a medical benefit and shall be covered  
68 in a manner identical to all other medical services.

69 SECTION 11. Section 4A of chapter 176B of the General Laws, as so appearing, is  
70 hereby amended by inserting after the word “setting”, in lines 95 and 96, the following words: -  
71 and, for persons under the age of 19, shall include collateral services.

72 SECTION 12. Subsection (i) of said section 4A of said chapter 176B, as so appearing, is  
73 hereby amended by striking out the second and third paragraphs.

74 SECTION 13. Said section 4A of said chapter 176B, as so appearing, is hereby further  
75 amended by adding the following 2 subsections:—

76 (j) Under this section, the following words shall have the following meanings unless the  
77 context requires otherwise:-

78 “Collateral services”, face-to-face or telephonic consultation, of at least 15 minutes of  
79 duration, by a licensed mental health professional with parties determined by the licensed mental  
80 health professional to be necessary to make a diagnosis, and develop and implement a treatment  
81 plan.

82 “Licensed mental health professional”, a licensed physician who specializes in the  
83 practice of psychiatry, a licensed psychologist, a licensed independent clinical social worker, a  
84 licensed mental health counselor, or a licensed nurse mental health clinical specialist.

85 (k) For the purposes of this section, psychopharmacological services and  
86 neuropsychological assessment services shall be treated as a medical benefit and shall be covered  
87 in a manner identical to all other medical services.

88 SECTION 14. Section 4M of chapter 176G of the General Laws, as so appearing, is  
89 hereby amended by inserting after the word “setting”, in lines 89 and 90, the following words: -  
90 and, for persons under the age of 19, shall include collateral services.

91 SECTION 15. Subsection (i) of said section 4M of said chapter 176G, as so appearing, is  
92 hereby amended by striking out the second and third paragraphs.

93 SECTION 16. Said section 4M of said chapter 176G of the General Laws, as so  
94 appearing, is hereby further amended by adding the following 2 subsections:—

95 (j) Under this section, the following words shall have the following meanings unless the  
96 context requires otherwise:-

97 “Collateral services”, face-to-face or telephonic consultation, of at least 15 minutes of  
98 duration, by a licensed mental health professional with parties determined by the licensed mental

99 health professional to be necessary to make a diagnosis, and develop and implement a treatment  
100 plan.

101 “Licensed mental health professional”, a licensed physician who specializes in the  
102 practice of psychiatry, a licensed psychologist, a licensed independent clinical social worker, a  
103 licensed mental health counselor, or a licensed nurse mental health clinical specialist.

104 (k) For the purposes of this section, psychopharmacological services and  
105 neuropsychological assessment services shall be treated as a medical benefit and shall be covered  
106 in a manner identical to all other medical services.