

SENATE No. 80

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 is hereby amended by inserting after
2 section 17H the following section:

3 Section 17I. 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, as most recently amended by Chapter
7 181 of the Acts of 2004. The vision screening shall be conducted by personnel approved by the
8 department of public health and trained in vision screening techniques developed by the
9 department of public health in consultation with the 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.

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

17 Section 10B. 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, as most recently amended by Chapter 181 of the Acts of
20 2004. The vision screening shall be conducted by personnel approved by the department of
21 public health and trained in vision screening techniques developed by the department of public
22 health in consultation with the department of education.

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

28 SECTION 3. Chapter 175 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
29 section 110I the following section:

30 Section 110M. Any policy, contract, agreement, plan, or certificate of insurance issued,
31 delivered, or renewed within the Commonwealth shall cover a vision screening for children
32 conducted within 12 months prior to entering kindergarten, pursuant to the first paragraph of
33 section 57 of Chapter 71, as most recently amended by Chapter 181 of the Acts of 2004. The
34 vision screening shall be conducted by personnel approved by the department of public health
35 and trained in vision screening techniques developed by the department of public health in
36 consultation with the department of education.

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

42 SECTION 4. Chapter 176A of the General Laws is hereby further amended by inserting
43 after section 8V the following section:-

44 Section 8W. Any policy, contract, agreement, plan, or certificate of insurance issued,
45 delivered, or renewed within the Commonwealth shall cover a vision screening for children
46 conducted within 12 months prior to entering kindergarten, pursuant to the first paragraph of
47 section 57 of Chapter 71, as most recently amended by Chapter 181 of the Acts of 2004. The
48 vision screening shall be conducted by personnel approved by the department of public health
49 and trained in vision screening techniques developed by the department of public health in
50 consultation with the department of education.

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

56 SECTION 5. Chapter 176B of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
57 section 4V the following section:-

58 Section 4W. Any policy, contract, agreement, plan, or certificate of insurance issued,
59 delivered, or renewed within the Commonwealth shall cover a vision screening for children
60 conducted within 12 months prior to entering kindergarten, pursuant to the first paragraph of
61 section 57 of Chapter 71, as most recently amended by Chapter 181 of the Acts of 2004. The
62 vision screening shall be conducted by personnel approved by the department of public health
63 and trained in vision screening techniques developed by the department of public health in
64 consultation with the department of education.

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

70 SECTION 6. Chapter 176G of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
71 section 4N the following section:-

72 Section 4O. Any policy, contract, agreement, plan, or certificate of insurance issued,
73 delivered, or renewed within the Commonwealth shall cover a vision screening for children
74 conducted within 12 months prior to entering kindergarten, pursuant to the first paragraph of
75 section 57 of Chapter 71, as most recently amended by Chapter 181 of the Acts of 2004. The
76 vision screening shall be conducted by personnel approved by the department of public health
77 and trained in vision screening techniques developed by the department of public health in
78 consultation with the department of education.

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