

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 956

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

*Theodore C. Speliotis*

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:*

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to Lyme Disease treatment coverage.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Theodore C. Speliotis</i>	<i>13th Essex</i>	<i>1/15/2015</i>
<i>John V. Fernandes</i>	<i>10th Worcester</i>	<i>9/9/2019</i>
<i>William Smitty Pignatelli</i>	<i>4th Berkshire</i>	<i>9/9/2019</i>
<i>Timothy R. Madden</i>	<i>Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket</i>	<i>9/9/2019</i>
<i>James J. Dwyer</i>	<i>30th Middlesex</i>	<i>9/9/2019</i>
<i>Jonathan D. Zlotnik</i>	<i>2nd Worcester</i>	<i>9/9/2019</i>
<i>Joan B. Lovely</i>	<i>Second Essex</i>	<i>9/9/2019</i>
<i>David M. Rogers</i>	<i>24th Middlesex</i>	<i>9/9/2019</i>
<i>Robert L. Hedlund</i>	<i>Plymouth and Norfolk</i>	<i>9/9/2019</i>
<i>Carole A. Fiola</i>	<i>6th Bristol</i>	<i>9/9/2019</i>
<i>Sean Garballey</i>	<i>23rd Middlesex</i>	<i>9/9/2019</i>
<i>Brian R. Mannal</i>	<i>2nd Barnstable</i>	<i>9/9/2019</i>

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 956

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By Mr. Speliotis of Danvers, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 956) of Theodore C. Speliotis and others relative to Lyme disease treatment coverage. Financial Services.

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court  
(2015-2016)  
\_\_\_\_\_

An Act relative to Lyme Disease treatment coverage.

*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 2012 Official  
2 Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after section 17K the following section:-

3           Section 17L. Any coverage offered by the commission to an active or retired employee of  
4 the commonwealth insured under the group insurance commission that provides coverage for  
5 cancer chemotherapy treatment shall provide coverage for Lyme disease therapy.

6           SECTION 2. Chapter 175 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
7 inserting after section 47DD, the following section:-

8           Section 47EE. Any policy, contract, agreement, plan or certificate of insurance issued,  
9 delivered or renewed within the commonwealth that provides medical expense coverage shall  
10 provide coverage for diagnostic testing and long-term antibiotic treatment of Lyme disease when  
11 determined to be medically necessary and ordered by a physician after making a thorough  
12 evaluation of the patient's symptoms, diagnostic test results and response to therapy. Therapy

otherwise eligible for benefits pursuant to this section shall not be denied solely because such therapy may be characterized as unproven, experimental, or investigational in nature.

SECTION 3. Chapter 176A of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby amended by inserting after section 8FF the following section:-

Section 8GG. Any contract between a subscriber and the corporation under an individual or group hospital service plan which is delivered, issued or renewed within the commonwealth shall provide coverage for diagnostic testing and long-term antibiotic therapy for Lyme disease when determined to be medically necessary and ordered by a physician after making a thorough evaluation of the patient's symptoms, diagnostic test results and response to therapy. Therapy otherwise eligible for benefits pursuant to this section shall not be denied solely because such therapy may be characterized as unproven, experimental, or investigational in nature.

SECTION 4. Chapter 176B of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby amended by inserting after section 4FF, the following section:-

Section 4GG. Any subscription certificate under an individual or group medical service agreement delivered, issued, or renewed within the commonwealth shall provide coverage for diagnostic testing and long-term antibiotic therapy for Lyme disease when determined to be medically necessary and ordered by a physician after making a thorough evaluation of the patient's symptoms, diagnostic test results and response to therapy. Therapy otherwise eligible for benefits pursuant to this section shall not be denied solely because such therapy may be characterized as unproven, experimental, or investigational in nature.

SECTION 5. Chapter 176G of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby amended by inserting after section 4X the following section:-

35           Section 4Y. Any individual or group health maintenance contract shall provide coverage  
36   for diagnostic testing and long-term antibiotic therapy for Lyme disease when determined to be  
37   medically necessary and ordered by a physician after making a thorough evaluation of the  
38   patient's symptoms, diagnostic test results and response to therapy. Therapy otherwise eligible  
39   for benefits pursuant to this section shall not be denied solely because such therapy may be  
40   characterized as unproven, experimental, or investigational in nature.