

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Mark J. Cusack

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 to strengthen behavioral health integration.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
Mark J. Cusack	5th Norfolk	1/19/2017

By Mr. Cusack of Braintree, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2391) of Mark J. Cusack relative to behavioral health services integration. Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the One Hundred and Ninetieth General Court (2017-2018)

An Act to strengthen behavioral health integration.

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. Subsection (b) of section 16T of chapter 6A of the General Laws, as
2	appearing in the 2014 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out the second paragraph
3	and inserting in place thereof the following paragraph:
4	The plan shall identify certain categories of health care resources, including acute care
5	units; non-acute care units; specialty care units, including, but not limited to, burn, coronary care,
6	cancer care, neonatal care, post-obstetric and post operative recovery care, pulmonary care, renal
7	dialysis and surgical, including trauma and intensive care units; skilled nursing facilities; assisted
8	living facilities; long-term care facilities; home health, behavioral health and mental health
9	services, including outpatient behavioral health and mental health services; treatment and
10	prevention services for alcohol and other drug abuse; emergency care; ambulatory care services;
11	primary care resources; pharmacy and pharmacological services; family planning services;
12	obstetrics and gynecology services; allied health services including, but not limited to,

13	optometric care, chiropractic services, dental care and midwifery services; federally qualified
14	health centers and free clinics; numbers of technologies or equipment defined as innovative
15	services or new technologies by the department under section 25C of chapter 111; and health
16	screening and early intervention services.
17	SECTION 2. Subsection (b) of section 16 of chapter 6D, as so appearing, is hereby
18	amended by adding the following paragraph:
19	If the external review process results in a full or partial overturning of the adverse
20	determination in question, the carrier shall be subject to a civil penalty of \$15,000. Such funds
21	shall be used to support the commission's efforts toward behavioral health integration.
22	SECTION 3. Section 20 of chapter 12C of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby
23	amended by striking out subsection (b) and inserting in place thereof the following section:
24	(b) The website shall provide updated information on a regular basis, but no more than 90
25	days after data required to post such information has been reported to the center, and additional
26	comparative quality, price and cost information shall be published as determined by the center.
27	To the extent possible, the website shall include: (1) comparative price and cost information for
28	the most common referral or prescribed services, as determined by the center, categorized by
29	payer and listed by facility, provider, and provider organization or other groupings, as
30	determined by the center; (2) comparative quality information from the standard quality measure
31	set and verified by the center, available by facility, provider, provider organization or any other
32	provider grouping, as determined by the center, for each such service or category of service for
33	which comparative price and cost information is provided; (3) general information related to
34	each service or category of service for which comparative information is provided; (4)

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35 comparative quality information from the standard quality measure set and verified by the center, 36 available by facility, provider, provider organization or other groupings, as determined by the center, that is not service-specific, including information related to patient safety and 37 38 satisfaction; (5) data concerning healthcare-associated infections and serious reportable events 39 reported under section 51H of chapter 111; (6) definitions of common health insurance and 40 medical terms, including, but not limited to, those determined under sections 2715(g) (2) and (3) 41 of the Public Health Service Act, so that consumers may compare health coverage and 42 understand the terms of their coverage; (7) a list of health care provider types, including but not 43 limited to primary care physicians, nurse practitioners and physician assistants, and what types of 44 services they are authorized to perform in the commonwealth under applicable state and federal 45 scope of practice laws; (8) factors consumers should consider when choosing an insurance 46 product or provider group, including, but not limited to, provider network, premium, cost-47 sharing, covered services, and tiering; (9) patient decision aids, which are interactive, written or 48 audio-visual tools that provide a balanced presentation of the condition and treatment or 49 screening options, benefits and harms, with attention to the patient's preferences and values, and 50 which may facilitate conversations between patients and their health care providers about 51 preference-sensitive conditions or diseases such as chronic back pain, early stage of breast and 52 prostate cancers, hip osteoarthritis, and cataracts; provided, however, that decision aids shall be 53 made available on, but not be limited to, long-term care and supports and palliative care; (10) a 54 list of provider services that are physically and programmatically accessible for people with 55 disabilities; and (11) descriptions of standard quality measures, as determined by the statewide 56 quality advisory committee and verified by the center.

57	SECTION 4. Subsection (b) of section 19 of chapter 19 of the General Laws, as so
58	appearing, is hereby amended by adding the following three sentences:
59	Any facility licensed under this chapter or under chapter 123 shall report to the
60	department when a patient is denied admissions due to the lack of an appropriate placement at
61	the facility as a result of the patient requiring both behavioral health and medical services or
62	requiring both mental health and substance use services. This information shall be used solely as
63	a means to determine the need for treatment capacity for patients with co-occurring diagnoses
64	and shall not result in punitive action against the facilities reporting the information.
65 66	SECTION 5. Chapter 32A of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby amended by inserting after section 17N the following section:
00	inserting after section 1710 the following section
67	Section 17O. Any coverage offered by the commission to an active or retired employee
67 68	Section 17O. Any coverage offered by the commission to an active or retired employee of the commonwealth insured under the group insurance commission shall provide coverage and
68	of the commonwealth insured under the group insurance commission shall provide coverage and
68 69	of the commonwealth insured under the group insurance commission shall provide coverage and reimbursement to primary care providers for the administration, scoring, and interpretation of
68 69 70	of the commonwealth insured under the group insurance commission shall provide coverage and reimbursement to primary care providers for the administration, scoring, and interpretation of behavioral health screening at every well child visit up to age 21. This coverage shall include
68 69 70 71	of the commonwealth insured under the group insurance commission shall provide coverage and reimbursement to primary care providers for the administration, scoring, and interpretation of behavioral health screening at every well child visit up to age 21. This coverage shall include postpartum screening for parents and reimbursement for both mental health and substance abuse
68 69 70 71 72	of the commonwealth insured under the group insurance commission shall provide coverage and reimbursement to primary care providers for the administration, scoring, and interpretation of behavioral health screening at every well child visit up to age 21. This coverage shall include postpartum screening for parents and reimbursement for both mental health and substance abuse screening in a single visit when necessary.
 68 69 70 71 72 73 	of the commonwealth insured under the group insurance commission shall provide coverage and reimbursement to primary care providers for the administration, scoring, and interpretation of behavioral health screening at every well child visit up to age 21. This coverage shall include postpartum screening for parents and reimbursement for both mental health and substance abuse screening in a single visit when necessary. SECTION 6. Subsection (g) of section 22 of said chapter 32A, as so appearing, is hereby

77 inpatient mental health or substance abuse placements for their members of insured if the

individuals suffering from a mental health or substance abuse condition remain in a hospital's
emergency department two hours after the decision to admit has been made.

80 If a medically necessary and covered mental health or substance abuse health service is not available to a member who is boarded in a hospital for more than 24 hours due to a lack of 81 82 capacity at an appropriate behavioral health facility within the carrier's provider network the 83 carrier shall approve placement and cover the services out-of-network for as long as the service 84 is unavailable in-network. If the member is still boarded after 24 hours after the decision to 85 admit, the commission or any carriers or third party administrators with which it contracts shall 86 reimburse providers at a rate not less than twice the average contracted rate for inpatient 87 psychiatric services. If the member is still boarded after 48 hours after the decision to admit, the 88 rate of reimbursement shall increase to not less than three times the average contracted rate for 89 inpatient psychiatric services. If the member is still boarded after 96 hours, and the provider and 90 the commission, or any carriers or third party administrators with which the commission 91 contracts, agree that all appropriate behavioral health facilities both in our out of the carrier's 92 provider network are at full capacity, then the rate of reimbursement shall reset to the standard 93 rate. Any regulations adopted pursuant to this section shall be utilized and included by the 94 commission, or any carriers or third party administrators with which it contracts, in developing 95 future payment reform and alternative contract arrangement.

96 If a mental health or substance abuse health service recommended by a provider is not 97 covered by the commission or any carriers or third party administrators with which it contracts, 98 the commission or any carriers or third party administrators with which it contracts shall put in 99 place an alternative reimbursable plan. Behavioral health services determined to be medically necessary shall be reimbursable regardless of where such services are provided, including services provided using telemedicine. If determined to be medically appropriate, telemedicine services shall be reimbursed to allow for a patient to receive behavioral health treatment at home until an appropriate inpatient placement is identified. For the purposes of this section, "telemedicine" shall mean the use of interactive audio, video or other electronic media for the purpose of diagnosis, consultation, and treatment of a patient's physical and mental health.

SECTION 7. Chapter 118E of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby amended by
 inserting after section 10H the following section:--

109 Section 10I. The division and its contracted health insurers, health plans, health 110 maintenance organizations, behavioral health management firms and third party administrators 111 under contract to a Medicaid managed care organization or primary care clinician plan shall 112 provide coverage and reimbursement to primary care providers for the administration, scoring, 113 and interpretation of behavioral health screening at every well child visit up to age 21. This 114 coverage shall include postpartum screening for parents and reimbursement for both mental 115 health and substance abuse screening in a single visit when necessary.

SECTION 8. Said Chapter 118E, as so appearing, is hereby further amended by striking
out section 13B and inserting in place thereof the following section:--

Section 13B. Hospital rate increases shall be made contingent upon hospital adherence to quality standards and achievement of performance benchmarks, including the reduction of racial and ethnic disparities in the provision of health care. Such benchmarks shall be developed or adopted by the executive office of health and human services so as to advance a common

122 national framework for quality measurement and reporting, drawing on measures that are 123 approved by the National Quality Forum and adopted by the Hospitals Quality Alliance and other national groups concerned with quality, in addition to the Boston Public Health 124 125 Commission Disparities Project Hospital Working Group Report Guidelines. To the greatest 126 extent possible, the executive office of health and human services shall limit, or require its 127 contracted health insurers, health plans, health maintenance organizations, behavioral health 128 management firms, and third party administrators under contract to a Medicaid managed care 129 organization or primary care clinical plan to limit, the number of measures to those in the 130 statewide quality measure set in order to align and coordinate quality measures across all payers. 131 The office of Medicaid shall consult with the MassHealth payment policy advisory board 132 established under section 16M of said chapter 6A, during the process of developing these quality 133 standards and performance benchmarks.

134 SECTION 9. Said Chapter 118E, as so appearing, is hereby further amended by adding
135 the following section:--

Section 78. The division and its contracted health insurers, health plans, health maintenance organizations, behavioral health management firms and third party administrators under contract to a Medicaid managed care organization or primary care clinician plan shall conduct searches, including but not limited to the use of a bed finding tool, for inpatient mental health or substance abuse placements for their members of insured if the individuals suffering from a mental health or substance abuse condition remain in a hospital's emergency department two hours after the decision to admit has been made.

143 If a medically necessary and covered mental health or substance abuse health service is 144 not available to a member who is boarded in a hospital for more than 24 hours due to a lack of 145 capacity at an appropriate behavioral health facility within the carrier's provider network, the 146 carrier shall approve placement and cover the services out-of-network for as long as the service 147 is unavailable in-network. If the member is still boarded after 24 hours after the decision to 148 admit, the division and its contracted health insurers, health plans, health maintenance 149 organizations, behavioral health management firms and third party administrators under contract 150 to a Medicaid managed care organization or primary care clinician plan shall reimburse 151 providers at a rate not less than twice the contracted rate for inpatient psychiatric services. If the 152 member is still boarded after 48 hours after the decision to admit, the rate of reimbursement shall 153 increase to not less than three times the average contracted rate for inpatient psychiatric services. 154 If the member is still boarded after 96 hours, and the provider and the division, or a contracted 155 entity, agree that all appropriate behavioral health facilities both in our out of the carrier's 156 provider network are at full capacity, then the rate of reimbursement shall reset to the standard 157 rate. Any regulations adopted pursuant to this section shall be utilized and included by the 158 division and its contracted health insurers, health plans, health maintenance organizations, 159 behavioral health management firms and third party administrators under contract to a Medicaid 160 managed care organization or primary care clinician plan, in developing future payment reform 161 and alternative contract arrangement.

162 If a mental health or substance abuse health service recommended by a provider is not 163 covered by the division and its contracted health insurers, health plans, health maintenance 164 organizations, behavioral health management firms and third party administrators under contract 165 to a Medicaid managed care organization or primary care clinician, the division and its 166 contracted health insurers, health plans, health maintenance organizations, behavioral health
 167 management firms and third party administrators under contract to a Medicaid managed care
 168 organization or primary care clinician shall put in place an alternative reimbursable plan.

Behavioral health services determined to be medically necessary shall be reimbursable regardless of where such services are provided, including services provided using telemedicine. If determined to be medically appropriate, telemedicine services shall be reimbursed to allow for a patient to receive behavioral health treatment at home until an appropriate inpatient placement is identified. For the purposes of this section, "telemedicine" shall mean the use of interactive audio, video or other electronic media for the purpose of diagnosis, consultation, and treatment of a patient's physical and mental health.

SECTION 10. Section 3 of chapter 123 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby
amended by adding the following sentence:--

The department shall provide assistance with discharge planning for all patients
discharged from acute inpatient psychiatric units who are referred to department run continuingcare facilities in order to ensure access to appropriate community placements.

181 SECTION 11. Subsection (g) of section 47B of chapter 175 of the General Laws, as so
182 appearing, is hereby amended by adding the following four paragraphs:--

An insurer shall conduct searches, including but not limited to the use of a bed finding tool, for inpatient mental health or substance abuse placements for their members of insured if the individuals suffering from a mental health or substance abuse condition remain in a hospital's emergency department two hours after the decision to admit has been made.

187 If a medically necessary and covered mental health or substance abuse health service is 188 not available to a member who is boarded in a hospital for more than 24 hours due to a lack of 189 capacity at an appropriate behavioral health facility within the carrier's provider network, the 190 carrier shall approve placement and cover the services out-of-network for as long as the service 191 is unavailable in-network. If the member is still boarded after 24 hours after the decision to 192 admit, the insurer shall reimburse providers at a rate not less than twice the average contracted 193 rate for inpatient psychiatric services. If the member is still boarded after 48 hours after the decision to admit, the rate of reimbursement shall increase to not less than three times the 194 195 average contracted rate for inpatient psychiatric services. If the member is still boarded after 96 196 hours, and the provider and the insurer agree that all appropriate behavioral health facilities both 197 in our out of the carrier's provider network are at full capacity, then the rate of reimbursement 198 shall reset to the standard rate. Any regulations adopted pursuant to this section shall be utilized 199 and included by an insurer with a contracted entity in developing future payment reform and 200 alternative contract arrangement.

If a mental health or substance abuse health service recommended by a provider is notcovered by an insurer, the insurer shall put in place an alternative reimbursable plan.

Behavioral health services determined to be medically necessary shall be reimbursable regardless of where such services are provided, including services provided using telemedicine. If determined to be medically appropriate, telemedicine services shall be reimbursed to allow for a patient to receive behavioral health treatment at home until an appropriate inpatient placement is identified. For the purposes of this section, "telemedicine" shall mean the use of interactive audio, video or other electronic media for the purpose of diagnosis, consultation, and treatment of a patient's physical and mental health. SECTION 12. Said chapter 175, as so appearing, is hereby amended by inserting after
 section 47GG the following new section:--

Section 47HH. Any policy, contract, agreement, plan or certificate of insurance issued, delivered or renewed within the commonwealth, which is considered creditable coverage under section 1 of chapter 118M, shall provide coverage and reimbursement to primary care providers for the administration, scoring, and interpretation of behavioral health screening at every well child visit up to age 21. This coverage shall include postpartum screening for parents and reimbursement for both mental health and substance abuse screening in a single visit when necessary.

SECTION 13. Subsection (g) of section 8A of chapter 176A of the General Laws, as so
 appearing, is hereby amended by adding the following four paragraphs:--

A nonprofit hospital service corporation shall conduct searches, including but not limited to the use of a bed finding tool, for inpatient mental health or substance abuse placements for their members of insured if the individuals suffering from a mental health or substance abuse condition remain in a hospital's emergency department two hours after the decision to admit has been made.

If a medically necessary and covered mental health or substance abuse health service is not available to a member who is boarded in a hospital for more than 24 hours due to a lack of capacity at an appropriate behavioral health facility within the carrier's provider network, the carrier shall approve placement and cover the services out-of-network for as long as the service is unavailable in-network. If the member is still boarded after 24 hours after the decision to admit, the nonprofit hospital service corporation shall reimburse providers at a rate not less than

232 twice the average contracted rate for inpatient psychiatric services. If the member is still boarded 233 after 48 hours after the decision to admit, the rate of reimbursement shall increase to not less than 234 three times the average contracted rate for inpatient psychiatric services. If the member is still 235 boarded after 96 hours, and the provider and the nonprofit hospital service corporation agree that 236 all appropriate behavioral health facilities both in our out of the carrier's provider network are at 237 full capacity, then the rate of reimbursement shall reset to the standard rate. Any regulations 238 adopted pursuant to this section shall be utilized and included by a nonprofit hospital service 239 corporation with a contracted entity in developing future payment reform and alternative contract 240 arrangement.

If a mental health or substance abuse health service recommended by a provider is not covered by a nonprofit hospital service corporation, the nonprofit hospital service corporation shall put in place an alternative reimbursable plan.

Behavioral health services determined to be medically necessary shall be reimbursable regardless of where such services are provided, including services provided using telemedicine. If determined to be medically appropriate, telemedicine services shall be reimbursed to allow for a patient to receive behavioral health treatment at home until an appropriate inpatient placement is identified. For the purposes of this section, "telemedicine" shall mean the use of interactive audio, video or other electronic media for the purpose of diagnosis, consultation, and treatment of a patient's physical and mental health.

SECTION 14. Said chapter 176A, as so appearing, is hereby amended by inserting after
 section 8II the following new section:--

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253 Section 8JJ. Any contract between a subscriber and the corporation under an individual 254 or group hospital service plan which is delivered, issued or renewed within the commonwealth 255 shall provide coverage and reimbursement to primary care providers for the administration, 256 scoring, and interpretation of behavioral health screening at every well child visit up to age 21. 257 This coverage shall include postpartum screening for parents and reimbursement for both mental 258 health and substance abuse screening in a single visit when necessary.

259 SECTION 15. Subsection (g) of section 4A of chapter 176B of the General Laws, as so
 260 appearing, is hereby amended by adding the following four paragraphs:--

A medical service corporation shall conduct searches, including, but not limited to the use of a bed finding tool, for inpatient mental health or substance abuse placements for their members of insured if the individuals suffering from a mental health or substance abuse condition remain in a hospital's emergency department two hours after the decision to admit has been made.

266 If a medically necessary and covered mental health or substance abuse health service is 267 not available to a member who is boarded in a hospital for more than 24 hours due to a lack of 268 capacity at an appropriate behavioral health facility within the carrier's provider network, the 269 carrier shall approve placement and cover the services out-of-network for as long as the service 270 is unavailable in-network. If the member is still boarded after 24 hours after the decision to 271 admit, the medical service corporation shall reimburse providers at a rate not less than twice the 272 average contracted rate for inpatient psychiatric services. If the member is still boarded after 48 273 hours after the decision to admit, the rate of reimbursement shall increase to not less than three 274 times the average contracted rate for inpatient psychiatric services. If the member is still boarded after 96 hours, and the provider and the medical service corporation agree that all appropriate behavioral health facilities both in our out of the carrier's provider network are at full capacity, then the rate of reimbursement shall reset to the standard rate. Any regulations adopted pursuant to this section shall be utilized and included by a medical service corporation with a contracted entity in developing future payment reform and alternative contract arrangement.

If a mental health or substance abuse health service recommended by a provider is not covered by a medical service corporation, the medical service corporation shall put in place an alternative reimbursable plan.

283 Behavioral health services determined to be medically necessary shall be reimbursable 284 regardless of where such services are provided, including services provided using telemedicine, 285 including services provided using telemedicine. If determined to be medically appropriate, 286 telemedicine services shall be reimbursed to allow for a patient to receive behavioral health 287 treatment at home until an appropriate inpatient placement is identified. For the purposes of this 288 section, "telemedicine" shall mean the use of interactive audio, video or other electronic media 289 for the purpose of diagnosis, consultation, and treatment of a patient's physical and mental health. 290

SECTION 16. Said chapter 176B, as so appearing, is hereby amended by inserting after
 section 4II the following new section:--

293 Section 4JJ. Any subscription certificate under an individual or group medical service 294 agreement delivered, issued or renewed within the commonwealth shall provide coverage and 295 reimbursement to primary care providers for the administration, scoring, and interpretation of 296 behavioral health screening at every well child visit up to age 21. This coverage shall include 297 postpartum screening for parents and reimbursement for both mental health and substance abuse298 screening in a single visit when necessary.

299	SECTION 17. Subsection (g) of section 4M of chapter 176G of the General Laws, as so
300	appearing, is hereby amended by adding the following four paragraphs:

301 A health maintenance organization shall conduct searches, including but not limited to 302 the use of a bed finding tool, for inpatient mental health or substance abuse placements for their 303 members of insured if the individuals suffering from a mental health or substance abuse 304 condition remain in a hospital's emergency department two hours after the decision to admit has 305 been made.

306 If a medically necessary and covered mental health or substance abuse health service is 307 not available to a member who is boarded in a hospital for more than 24 hours due to a lack of 308 capacity at an appropriate behavioral health facility within the carrier's provider network, the 309 carrier shall approve placement and cover the services out-of-network for as long as the service 310 is unavailable in-network. If the member is still boarded after 24 hours after the decision to 311 admit, the health maintenance organization shall reimburse providers at a rate not less than twice 312 the average contracted rate for inpatient psychiatric services. If the member is still boarded after 313 48 hours after the decision to admit, the rate of reimbursement shall increase to not less than 314 three times the average contracted rate for inpatient psychiatric services. If the member is still 315 boarded after 96 hours, and the provider and the health maintenance organization agree that all 316 appropriate behavioral health facilities both in our out of the carrier's provider network are at full 317 capacity, then the rate of reimbursement shall reset to the standard rate. Any regulations adopted

pursuant to this section shall be utilized and included by a health maintenance organization witha contracted entity in developing future payment reform and alternative contract arrangement.

320 If a mental health or substance abuse health service recommended by a provider is not 321 covered by a health maintenance organization, the health maintenance organization shall put in 322 place an alternative reimbursable plan.

Behavioral health services determined to be medically necessary shall be reimbursable regardless of where such services are provided, including services provided using telemedicine. If determined to be medically appropriate, telemedicine services shall be reimbursed to allow for a patient to receive behavioral health treatment at home until an appropriate inpatient placement is identified. For the purposes of this section, "telemedicine" shall mean the use of interactive audio, video or other electronic media for the purpose of diagnosis, consultation, and treatment of a patient's physical and mental health.

330 SECTION 18. Said chapter 176G, as so appearing, is hereby amended by inserting after
 331 section 4AA the following new section:--

Section 4BB. Any individual or group health maintenance contract that is issued or
renewed shall provide coverage and reimbursement to primary care providers for the
administration, scoring, and interpretation of behavioral health screening at every well child visit
up to age 21. This coverage shall include postpartum screening for parents and reimbursement
for both mental health and substance abuse screening in a single visit when necessary.
SECTION 19. Section 14 of chapter 176J of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby

337 SECTION 19. Section 14 of chapter 176J of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby
 338 amended by adding the following four paragraphs:--

Carriers shall conduct searches, including but not limited to the use of a bed finding tool, for inpatient mental health or substance abuse placements for their members of insured if the individuals suffering from a mental health or substance abuse condition remain in a hospital's emergency department two hours after the decision to admit has been made.

343 If a medically necessary and covered mental health or substance abuse health service is 344 not available to a member who is boarded in a hospital for more than 24 hours due to a lack of 345 capacity at an appropriate behavioral health facility within the carrier's provider network, the 346 carrier shall approve placement and cover the services out-of-network for as long as the service 347 is unavailable in-network. If the member is still boarded after 24 hours after the decision to 348 admit, the carrier shall reimburse providers at a rate not less than twice the average contracted 349 rate for inpatient psychiatric services. If the member is still boarded after 48 hours after the 350 decision to admit, the rate of reimbursement shall increase to not less than three times the 351 average contracted rate for inpatient psychiatric services. If the member is still boarded after 96 352 hours, and the provider and the carrier agree that all appropriate behavioral health facilities both 353 in our out of the carrier's provider network are at full capacity, then the rate of reimbursement 354 shall reset to the standard rate. Any regulations adopted pursuant to this section shall be utilized 355 and included by a carrier with a contracted entity in developing future payment reform and 356 alternative contract arrangement.

357 If a mental health or substance abuse health service recommended by a provider is not358 covered by a carrier, the carrier shall put in place an alternative reimbursable plan.

Behavioral health services determined to be medically necessary shall be reimbursable
 regardless of where such services are provided, including services provided using telemedicine.

361 If determined to be medically appropriate, telemedicine services shall be reimbursed to allow for 362 a patient to receive behavioral health treatment at home until an appropriate inpatient placement 363 is identified. For the purposes of this section, "telemedicine" shall mean the use of interactive 364 audio, video or other electronic media for the purpose of diagnosis, consultation, and treatment 365 of a patient's physical and mental health.

366 SECTION 20. Chapter 176T of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby amended by
 367 adding the following section:--

368 Section 10. The division shall develop standard criteria and oversight guidelines to 369 delegate credentialing of providers to risk-bearing provider organizations. Such criteria and 370 oversight guidelines shall meet applicable national accreditation standards.

371 SECTION 21. (a) There shall be a Massachusetts Interagency Council on Behavioral 372 Health Integration convened to determine regulatory and payment structure barriers to 373 comprehensive behavioral health integration. The Interagency Council shall: (i) review potential 374 changes to licensing authority of psychiatric units and the impacts of such changes on patient 375 access to behavioral health services; (ii) review regulatory barriers that inhibit behavioral health 376 integration, including but not limited to regulations that impede facilities and units from 377 processing discharge and admissions authorizations on weekends and the reimbursement of 378 behavioral health care and physical health care on the same day; (iii) review regulations and 379 protocols of health care payers that inhibit the ability of locating appropriate behavioral health 380 services for patients following acute inpatient hospitalization; and (iv) review potential funding 381 mechanisms to increase reimbursement rates for community level behavioral health services and 382 inpatient behavioral health services, including but not limited to the establishment of a trust fund

to subsidize payments for behavioral health care provided in community settings and atcommunity hospitals.

385 (b) The interagency council shall consist of the following members of their designees: the 386 secretary of health and human services, who shall serve as chair; the director of the division of 387 medical assistance; the commissioner of mental health; the commissioner of public health, the 388 commissioner of insurance; the executive director of the health policy commission; and the 389 executive director of the center for health information and analysis.

390 (c) The interagency council shall meet at least 4 times annually and shall establish task391 groups, meetings and any other activity deemed necessary to carry out its mandate.

(d) All affected agencies, departments and boards of the commonwealth shall fully
cooperate with the interagency council. The council may call and rely upon the expertise and
services of individuals and entities outside of its membership for research, advice, support or
other functions necessary and appropriate to further accomplish its mission.

396 SECTION 22. The health policy commission shall issue a report detailing the effect of 397 health care payers using behavioral health managers. This report should take into account the 398 effect on finances, quality, access, and the integration of behavioral health services with medical 399 services.