

HOUSE No. 1040

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Ruth B. Balser and Thomas M. Stanley

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 require health care coverage for emergency psychiatric services.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Ruth B. Balser</i>	<i>12th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/26/2021</i>
<i>Thomas M. Stanley</i>	<i>9th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/3/2021</i>
<i>Elizabeth A. Malia</i>	<i>11th Suffolk</i>	<i>2/24/2021</i>
<i>Tami L. Gouveia</i>	<i>14th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>Kate Lipper-Garabedian</i>	<i>32nd Middlesex</i>	<i>3/11/2021</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	<i>4/26/2021</i>

HOUSE No. 1040

By Representatives Balser of Newton and Stanley of Waltham, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1040) of Ruth B. Balser, Thomas M. Stanley and others for legislation to require health care coverage for emergency psychiatric services. Financial Services.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Second General Court
(2021-2022)**

An Act to require health care coverage for emergency psychiatric services.

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 adding the
2 following section:-

3 Section 29.

4 (a) For the purpose of this section the following words should have the following
5 meanings:

6 “Emergency services programs” shall mean all programs subject to contract between the
7 Massachusetts behavioral health partnership and nonprofit organizations for the provision of said
8 emergency services.

9 (b) The commission shall provide to an active or retired employee of the
10 commonwealth who is insured under the group insurance commission benefits on a
11 nondiscriminatory basis for medically necessary emergency service programs.

12 SECTION 2. Chapter 175 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
13 section 47AA the following section:-

14 Section 47LL.

15 (a) For the purpose of this section the following words should have the following
16 meanings:

17 “Emergency services programs” shall mean all programs subject to contract between the
18 Massachusetts behavioral health partnership and nonprofit organizations for the provision of said
19 emergency services.

20 (b) An individual policy of accident and sickness insurance issued under section 108
21 that provides hospital expense and surgical expense insurance and any group blanket or general
22 policy of accident and sickness insurance issued under section 110 that provides hospital expense
23 and surgical expense insurance, which is issued or renewed within or without the
24 commonwealth, shall provide benefits on a nondiscriminatory basis for medically necessary
25 emergency service programs.

26 SECTION 3. Chapter 176A of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
27 section 8DD the following section:-

28 Section 8NN.

29 (a) For the purpose of this section the following words should have the following
30 meanings:

31 “Emergency services programs” shall mean all programs subject to contract between the
32 Massachusetts behavioral health partnership and nonprofit organizations for the provision of said
33 emergency services.

34 (b) A contract between a subscriber and the corporation under an individual or group
35 hospital service plan which is issued or renewed within or without the commonwealth shall
36 provide benefits on a nondiscriminatory basis for medically necessary emergency service
37 programs.

38 SECTION 4. Chapter 176B of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
39 section 4DD the following section:-

40 Section 4NN.

41 (a) For the purpose of this section the following words should have the following
42 meanings:

43 “Emergency services programs” shall mean all programs subject to contract between the
44 Massachusetts behavioral health partnership and nonprofit organizations for the provision of said
45 emergency services.

46 (b) A subscription certificate under an individual or group medical service agreement
47 which is issued or renewed within or without the commonwealth shall provide benefits on a
48 nondiscriminatory basis for medically necessary emergency service programs.

49 SECTION 5. Chapter 176G of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
50 section 4V the following section:-

51 Section 4FF.

52 (a) For the purpose of this section the following words should have the following
53 meanings:

54 “Emergency services programs” shall mean all programs subject to contract between the
55 Massachusetts behavioral health partnership and nonprofit organizations for the provision of
56 said emergency services.

57 (b) A health maintenance contract issued or renewed within or without the
58 commonwealth shall provide benefits on a nondiscriminatory basis for medically necessary
59 emergency service programs.

60 SECTION 6. This act shall take effect on January 1, 2022.