HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 670 FILED ON: 1/26/2021

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

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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:

SECTION 1. Chapter 32A of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the following section:-

Section 29.

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

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

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

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

Section 47LL.

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

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

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

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

Section 8NN.

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

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

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

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

Section 4NN.

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

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

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

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

Section 4FF.

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

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

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

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