

SENATE No. 672

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Cindy F. Friedman

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:

Cindy F. Friedman

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Fourth Middlesex

SENATE No. 672

By Ms. Friedman, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 672) of Cindy F. Friedman for legislation to require health care coverage for the emergency psychiatric services. Financial Services.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. 590 OF 2019-2020.]

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. The commission shall provide to an active or retired employee of the
4 commonwealth who is insured under the group insurance commission benefits on a
5 nondiscriminatory basis for medically necessary emergency services programs, as defined in
6 section 1 of chapter 175.

7 SECTION 2. Section 1 of chapter 175 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2018
8 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the definition of “Domestic company” the
9 following definition:-

“Emergency services programs”, all programs subject to contract between the Massachusetts Behavioral Health Partnership and nonprofit organizations for the provision of community-based emergency psychiatric services, including, but not limited to, behavioral health crisis assessment, intervention, and stabilization services 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, through the following service components: (i) mobile crisis intervention services for youth; (ii) mobile crisis intervention services for adults; (iii) emergency service provider community-based locations; and (iv) adult community crisis stabilization services.

SECTION 3. Said chapter 175 is hereby further amended by inserting after section 47BB the following section:-

Section 47CC. 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 services programs.

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

Section 8NN. 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 services programs, as defined in section 1 of chapter 175.

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

Section 4NN. 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 services programs, as defined in section 1 of chapter 175.

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

Section 4FF. An individual or group health maintenance contract issued or renewed within or without the commonwealth shall provide benefits on a nondiscriminatory basis for medically necessary emergency services programs, as defined in section 1 of chapter 175.

SECTION 7. Form filings implementing this act shall be subject to the approval of the commissioner of insurance.

SECTION 8. This act shall take effect on January 1, 2022.