

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 1290**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

*Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr.*

*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 dental insurance coverage of periodontal treatments.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr.</i>	<i>12th Hampden</i>	<i>1/13/2025</i>
<i>Bud L. Williams</i>	<i>11th Hampden</i>	<i>2/5/2025</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 1290**

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By Representative Puppolo of Springfield, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1290) of Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr., and Bud L. Williams relative to dental insurance coverage of periodontal treatments. Financial Services.

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court  
(2025-2026)**  
\_\_\_\_\_

An Act relative to dental insurance coverage of periodontal treatments.

*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 35. Any dental benefits plan, as defined in section 1 of chapter 176X, offered by  
4 the commission to an active or retired employee of the commonwealth insured under the group  
5 insurance commission shall provide coverage for the following periodontal treatments as defined  
6 in section 5 of said chapter 176X: (i) oral cancer screenings and (ii) laser bacterial reduction  
7 therapy.

8 SECTION 2. Chapter 118E of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the  
9 following section:-

10 Section 85. The division and any of its contracted insurers who provides dental benefit  
11 plans, as defined in section 1 of chapter 176X, shall provide coverage for the following

12 periodontal treatments as defined in section 5 of said chapter 176X: (i) oral cancer screenings  
13 and (ii) laser bacterial reduction therapy.

14 SECTION 3. Section 2 of chapter 176X, as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, is  
15 hereby amended by adding the following subsection:-

16 (h) The commissioner may only approve carriers offering dental benefit plans, including  
17 carriers licensed under chapters 175, 176B, 176E, 176G or 176I, that include coverage for the  
18 following periodontal treatments as defined in section 5: (i) oral cancer screenings and (ii) laser  
19 bacterial reduction therapy.

20 SECTION 4. Said chapter 176X is hereby further amended by adding the following  
21 section:-

22 Section 5. (a) For the purposes of this section, the following words shall, unless the  
23 context clearly requires otherwise, have the following meanings:-

24 “Laser bacterial reduction therapy”, a procedure using laser technology to reduce harmful  
25 bacteria and prevent the spread of disease in the mouth.

26 “Oral cancer screenings”, an examination performed by a dentist or doctor to look for  
27 signs of cancer or precancerous conditions in the mouth.

28 (b) Any dental benefit plan within the commonwealth shall provide coverage for the  
29 following periodontal treatments: (i) oral cancer screenings and (ii) laser bacterial reduction  
30 therapy.