HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 3896 FILED ON: 1/17/2025

HOUSE . . . . . No. 280

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Bridget Plouffe

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 providing for insurance coverage for vision screening for children.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
Bridget Plouffe	*9th Plymouth*	*1/17/2025*

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HOUSE . . . . . No. 280

By Representative Plouffe of Brockton, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 280) of Bridget Plouffe for legislation to provide insurance coverage for vision screening for children. Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. *137* OF 2023-2024.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act providing for insurance coverage for vision screening for children.

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, as appearing in the 2006 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after section 17I the following section:

Section 17J. The commission shall provide to any active or retired employee of the commonwealth who is insured under the group insurance commission coverage for the cost of a vision screening for children conducted within 12 months prior to entering kindergarten, pursuant to the first paragraph of section 57 of chapter 71. The vision screening shall be conducted by personnel approved by the department of public health and trained in vision screening techniques developed by the department of public health in consultation with the department of education.

10 For children who fail to pass the vision screening and for children diagnosed with
11 neurodevelopmental delay, the commission shall provide coverage of a comprehensive eye
12 examination performed by a licensed optometrist or ophthalmologist chosen by the child's parent
13 or guardian indicating any pertinent diagnosis, treatment, prognosis, recommendation and
14 evidence of follow-up treatment, if necessary.

15 SECTION 2. Chapter 118E of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
16 section 10F the following section: —

17 Section 10G. The division shall provide coverage for the cost of a vision screening for
18 children conducted within 12 months prior to entering kindergarten, pursuant to the first
19 paragraph of section 57 of chapter 71. The vision screening shall be conducted by personnel
20 approved by the department of public health and trained in vision screening techniques
21 developed by the department of public health in consultation with the department of education.

22 For children who fail to pass the vision screening and for children diagnosed with
23 neurodevelopmental delay, the division shall provide coverage of a comprehensive eye
24 examination performed by a licensed optometrist or ophthalmologist chosen by the child's parent
25 or guardian indicating any pertinent diagnosis, treatment, prognosis, recommendation and
26 evidence of follow-up treatment, if necessary.

27 SECTION 3. Chapter 175 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
28 section 110L the following section: —

29 Section 110M. Any blanket or general policy of insurance which is delivered or issued
30 for delivery within or without the commonwealth and which covers residents of the
31 commonwealth and any employees health and welfare fund which is promulgated or renewed to

32 any person or group of persons in the commonwealth shall provide coverage for a vision
33 screening for children conducted within 12 months prior to entering kindergarten, pursuant to the
34 first paragraph of section 57 of chapter 71.. The vision screening shall be conducted by personnel
35 approved by the department of public health and trained in vision screening techniques
36 developed by the department of public health in consultation with the department of education.

37 For children who fail to pass the vision screening and for children diagnosed with
38 neurodevelopmental delay, coverage shall be provided for a comprehensive eye examination
39 performed by a licensed optometrist or ophthalmologist chosen by the child's parent or guardian
40 indicating any pertinent diagnosis, treatment, prognosis, recommendation and evidence of
41 follow-up treatment, if necessary.

42 SECTION 4. Chapter 176A of the General Laws, is hereby amended by inserting after
43 section 8Z the following section:—

44 Section 8AA. Any contract between a subscriber and the corporation under an individual
45 or group hospital service plan that provides hospital expense and surgical expense insurance,
46 delivered, issued, or renewed by agreement between the insurer and the policyholder; within or
47 without the commonwealth, shall provide coverage for a vision screening for children conducted
48 within 12 months prior to entering kindergarten, pursuant to the first paragraph of section 57 of
49 chapter 71. The vision screening shall be conducted by personnel approved by the department of
50 public health and trained in vision screening techniques developed by the department of public
51 health in consultation with the department of education.

52 For children who fail to pass the vision screening and for children diagnosed with
53 neurodevelopmental delay, coverage shall be provided for a comprehensive eye examination

54 performed by a licensed optometrist or ophthalmologist chosen by the child's parent or guardian
55 indicating any pertinent diagnosis, treatment, prognosis, recommendation and evidence of
56 follow-up treatment, if necessary.

57 SECTION 5. Chapter 176B of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
58 section 4Z the following section:—

59 Section 4AA. Any subscription certificate under an individual or group medical service
60 agreement which provides hospital expense and surgical expense insurance, delivered, issued, or
61 renewed by agreement between the insurer and the policyholder, within or without the
62 commonwealth, shall provide coverage for a vision screening for children conducted within 12
63 months prior to entering kindergarten, pursuant to the first paragraph of section 57 of chapter 71.
64 The vision screening shall be conducted by personnel approved by the department of public
65 health and trained in vision screening techniques developed by the department of public health in
66 consultation with the department of education.

67 For children who fail to pass the vision screening and for children diagnosed with
68 neurodevelopmental delay, coverage shall be provided for a comprehensive eye examination
69 performed by a licensed optometrist or ophthalmologist chosen by the child's parent or guardian
70 indicating any pertinent diagnosis, treatment, prognosis, recommendation and evidence of
71 follow-up treatment, if necessary.

72 SECTION 6. Chapter 176G of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
73 section 4S the following section:—

74 Section 4T. Any group health maintenance contract, except contracts providing
75 supplemental coverage to Medicare or to other government programs, delivered, issued or

76 renewed by agreement within or without the commonwealth shall provide to a member or
77 enrollee coverage for a vision screening for children conducted within 12 months prior to
78 entering kindergarten, pursuant to the first paragraph of section 57 of chapter 71. The vision
79 screening shall be conducted by personnel approved by the department of public health and
80 trained in vision screening techniques developed by the department of public health in
81 consultation with the department of education.

82 For children who fail to pass the vision screening and for children diagnosed with
83 neurodevelopmental delay, coverage shall be provided for a comprehensive eye examination
84 performed by a licensed optometrist or ophthalmologist chosen by the child's parent or guardian
85 indicating any pertinent diagnosis, treatment, prognosis, recommendation and evidence of
86 follow-up treatment, if necessary.