

SENATE No. 697

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Brendan P. Crighton

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 increase access to nurse-midwifery services.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Brendan P. Crighton</i>	<i>Third Essex</i>	
<i>Vanna Howard</i>	<i>17th Middlesex</i>	<i>4/4/2025</i>
<i>Joanne M. Comerford</i>	<i>Hampshire, Franklin and Worcester</i>	<i>6/6/2025</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	<i>7/23/2025</i>

SENATE No. 697

By Mr. Crighton, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 697) of Brendan P. Crighton for legislation relative to insurance coverage and access to nurse-midwifery services. Financial Services.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. 607 OF 2023-2024.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act to increase access to nurse-midwifery 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 31. The commission shall provide to any active or retired employee of the
4 commonwealth insured under the group insurance commission coverage for services rendered by
5 a certified nurse midwife designated to engage in the practice of nurse-midwifery by the board of
6 registration in nursing pursuant to section 80C of chapter 112; provided, however, that the
7 following conditions are met: (1) the service rendered is within the scope of the certified nurse
8 midwife’s authorization to practice by the board of registration in nursing; (2) the policy or
9 contract currently provides benefits for identical services rendered by a health care provider
10 licensed by the commonwealth; and (3) the reimbursement for the services provided shall be in

11 the same amount as the reimbursement paid under the policy to a licensed physician performing
12 the service in the area served. An insurer may not reduce the reimbursement paid to a licensed
13 physician to achieve compliance with this section.

14 SECTION 2. Section 47E of Chapter 175 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022
15 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding the following sentences:- The reimbursement for
16 the services provided pursuant to this section shall be in the same amount as the reimbursement
17 paid under the policy to a licensed physician performing the service in the area served. An
18 insurer may not reduce the reimbursement paid to a licensed physician in order to comply with
19 this section.

20 SECTION 3. Chapter 176A of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
21 section 80O the following section:-

22 Section 8PP. Any contract between a subscriber and the corporation under an individual
23 or group hospital service plan which is delivered, issued or renewed in the commonwealth shall
24 provide as a benefit to all individual subscribers and members within the commonwealth and to
25 all group members having a principal place of employment within the commonwealth for
26 services rendered by a certified nurse midwife designated to engage in the practice of nurse-
27 midwifery by the board of registration in nursing pursuant to section 80C of chapter 112;
28 provided, however, that the following conditions are met: (1) the service rendered is within the
29 scope of the certified nurse midwife's authorization to practice by the board of registration in
30 nursing; (2) the policy or contract currently provides benefits for identical services rendered by a
31 health care provider licensed by the commonwealth; and (3) the reimbursement for the services
32 provided shall be in the same amount as the reimbursement paid under the policy to a licensed

33 physician performing the service in the area served. An insurer may not reduce the
34 reimbursement paid to a licensed physician in order to comply with this section.

35 SECTION 4. Section 4G of Chapter 176B of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022
36 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding the following sentences:- The reimbursement for
37 the services provided pursuant to this section shall be in the same amount as the reimbursement
38 paid under the policy to a licensed physician performing the service in the area served. An
39 insurer may not reduce the reimbursement paid to a licensed physician in order to comply with
40 this section.

41 SECTION 5. Section 4 of Chapter 176G of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby
42 amended by adding the following subsection:-

43 (g) services rendered by a certified nurse midwife designated to engage in the practice of
44 nurse-midwifery by the board of registration in nursing pursuant to section 80C of chapter 112,
45 subject to the terms of a negotiated agreement between the health maintenance organization and
46 the provider of health care services. The reimbursement for the services provided shall be in the
47 same amount as the reimbursement paid under the policy to a licensed physician performing the
48 service in the area served. An insurer may not reduce the reimbursement paid to a licensed
49 physician in order to comply with this section.