

**SENATE . . . . . No.**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

*Joan B. Lovely*

*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 promote increased access to patient care through equitable reimbursement.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

*Joan B. Lovely*

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

*Second Essex*

**SENATE . . . . . No.**

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[Pin Slip]

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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

An Act to promote increased access to patient care through equitable reimbursement.

*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, as appearing in the 2024 Official  
2 Edition, is hereby amended by adding the following section:—

3           Section 34. (a) (1) Coverage offered by the commission to an active or retired employee  
4 of the commonwealth insured under the commission shall not make a distinction, for the  
5 purposes of participation, coverage, and payment, between physicians licensed pursuant to  
6 chapter 112 and certified registered nurse anesthetists authorized to practice in an advanced  
7 practice nursing role pursuant to section 80B of chapter 112, if the physician or certified  
8 registered nurse anesthetist is acting within the scope of their practice pursuant to their licensure  
9 and certification. Nothing in this subsection shall prevent the commission from establishing  
10 varying reimbursement rates based on quality or performance measures if such measures are the  
11 same for physicians licensed pursuant to chapter 112 and certified registered nurse anesthetists  
12 authorized to practice in advanced practice nursing roles pursuant to said section 80B.

13 (b) A claim submitted for payment must identify the National Provider Identifier of the  
14 physician or certified registered nurse anesthetist who provided the service.

15 (c) (1) The commission shall reimburse a contracted certified registered nurse anesthetist  
16 who is authorized to practice in an advanced practice nursing role pursuant to said section 80B in  
17 an amount not less than the allowed amount that the commissioner would reimburse for the same  
18 service if provided by a contracted provider who is a physician licensed pursuant to chapter 112.

19 (2) The commission may not reduce the reimbursement amount paid to physicians  
20 licensed under chapter 112 to comply with this subsection.

21 SECTION 2. Section 6 of chapter 118E of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby  
22 amended by inserting in line \_\_\_ after the words “board-certified physicians”, the following:—

23 , certified registered nurse anesthetists,

24 SECTION 3. Chapter 118E of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
25 adding the following section:—

26 Section 83. (a) (1) The division and its contracted health insurers, health plans, health  
27 maintenance organizations, behavioral health management firms and third-party administrators  
28 under contract to a Medicaid-managed care organization, accountable care organization, or  
29 primary care clinician plan shall not make a distinction, for the purposes of participation,  
30 coverage, and payment, between physicians licensed pursuant to chapter 112 and certified  
31 registered nurse anesthetists authorized to practice in an advanced practice nursing role pursuant  
32 to section 80B of chapter 112, if the physician or certified registered nurse anesthetist is acting  
33 within the scope of their practice pursuant to their licensure and certification. Nothing in this

34 subsection shall prevent the commission from establishing varying reimbursement rates based on  
35 quality or performance measures if such measures are the same for physicians licensed pursuant  
36 to chapter 112 and certified registered nurse anesthetists authorized to practice in advanced  
37 practice nursing roles pursuant to said section 80B.

38 (b) A claim submitted for payment must identify the National Provider Identifier of the  
39 physician or certified registered nurse anesthetist who provided the service.

40 (c) The division and its contracted entities shall: (i) reimburse a contracted certified  
41 registered nurse anesthetist who is authorized to practice in an advanced practice nursing role  
42 pursuant to said section 80B in an amount not less than the allowed amount that it would  
43 reimburse for the same service if provided by a contracted provider who is a physician licensed  
44 pursuant to chapter 112; and (ii) not reduce the reimbursement amount paid to physicians  
45 licensed under chapter 112 to comply with this subsection.

46 SECTION 4. Chapter 175 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
47 inserting after section 108N the following section:—

48 Section 108O. (a) (1) An individual policy of accident and sickness insurance issued  
49 under section 108 that provides hospital expense and surgical expense insurance and any group  
50 blanket or general policy of accident and sickness insurance issued under section 110 that  
51 provides hospital expense and surgical expense insurance that is issued or renewed within or  
52 without the commonwealth shall not make a distinction, for the purposes of participation,  
53 coverage, and payment, between physicians licensed pursuant to chapter 112 and certified  
54 registered nurse anesthetists authorized to practice in an advanced practice nursing role pursuant  
55 to section 80B of chapter 112, if the physician or certified registered nurse anesthetist is acting

56 within the scope of their practice pursuant to their licensure and certification. Nothing in this  
57 subsection shall prevent the commission from establishing varying reimbursement rates based on  
58 quality or performance measures as long as such measures are the same for physicians licensed  
59 pursuant to chapter 112 and certified registered nurse anesthetists authorized to practice in an  
60 advanced practice nursing role pursuant to said section 80B.

61 (b) A claim submitted for payment must identify the National Provider Identifier of the  
62 physician or certified registered nurse anesthetist who provided the service.

63 (c) An individual policy of accident and sickness insurance issued under section 108 that  
64 provides hospital expense and surgical expense insurance and any group blanket or general  
65 policy of accident and sickness insurance issued under section 110 that provides hospital expense  
66 and surgical expense insurance that is issued or renewed within or without the commonwealth  
67 shall: (i) reimburse a contracted certified registered nurse anesthetist who is authorized to  
68 practice in an advanced practice nursing role pursuant to said section 80B in an amount not less  
69 than the allowed amount that it would reimburse for the same service if provided by a contracted  
70 provider who is a physician licensed pursuant to chapter 112; and (ii) not reduce the  
71 reimbursement amount paid to physicians licensed under chapter 112 to comply with this  
72 section.

73 SECTION 5. Chapter 176A of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
74 adding the following section:—

75 Section 39. Any contract between a subscriber and a corporation under an individual or  
76 group hospital service plan delivered, issued or renewed within the commonwealth shall not  
77 make a distinction, for the purposes of participation, coverage, and payment, between physicians

78 licensed pursuant to chapter 112 and certified registered nurse anesthetists authorized to practice  
79 in an advanced practice nursing role pursuant to section 80B of chapter 112, if the physician or  
80 certified registered nurse anesthetist is acting within the scope of their practice pursuant to their  
81 licensure and certification. Nothing in this subsection shall prevent the commission from  
82 establishing varying reimbursement rates based on quality or performance measures if such  
83 measures are the same for physicians licensed pursuant to chapter 112 and certified registered  
84 nurse anesthetists authorized to practice in an advanced practice nursing role pursuant to said  
85 section 80B.

86 (b) A claim submitted for payment must identify the National Provider Identifier of the  
87 physician or certified registered nurse anesthetist who provided the service.

88 (c) Any contract between a subscriber and a corporation under an individual or group  
89 hospital service plan delivered, issued or renewed within the commonwealth shall: (i) reimburse  
90 a contracted certified registered nurse anesthetist who is authorized to practice in an advanced  
91 practice nursing role pursuant to said section 80B in an amount not less than the allowed amount  
92 that it would reimburse for the same service if provided by a contracted provider who is a  
93 physician licensed pursuant to chapter 112; and (ii) not reduce the reimbursement amount paid to  
94 physicians licensed under chapter 112 to comply with this section.

95 SECTION 6. Section 1 of chapter 176B of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby  
96 amended by inserting after the definition of "Certified nurse midwife", the following  
97 definition:—

98           “Certified registered nurse anesthetist”, a registered nurse who is authorized to practice in  
99 an advanced practice nursing role as a certified registered nurse anesthetist pursuant to section  
100 80B of chapter 112.

101           SECTION 7. Section 1 of said chapter 176B is hereby further amended by inserting after  
102 “physicians” in the definition of “Medical service” the following:—

103           or certified registered nurse anesthetists

104           SECTION 8. Section 1 of said chapter 176B is further amended by inserting, after the  
105 definition of “Nonprofit medical service plan”, the following definition:—

106           “Participating certified registered nurse anesthetist”, a certified registered nurse  
107 anesthetist who is authorized to practice in an advanced practice nursing role pursuant to section  
108 80B of chapter 112, and who agrees in writing with a medical service corporation to perform  
109 medical services for subscribers and covered dependents and to abide by the by-laws, rules and  
110 regulations of such corporation.

111           SECTION 9. Said chapter 176B is further amended in section 4T by striking out,  
112 wherever they appear, the words “certified registered nurse anesthetist or”.

113           SECTION 10. Said chapter 176B is hereby further amended by adding the following  
114 section:—

115           Section 26. A contract between a subscriber and a medical service corporation shall not  
116 make a distinction, for the purposes of participation, coverage, and payment, between physicians  
117 licensed pursuant to chapter 112 and certified registered nurse anesthetists authorized to practice  
118 in an advanced practice nursing role pursuant to section 80B of chapter 112, if the physician or

119 certified registered nurse anesthetist is acting within the scope of their practice pursuant to their  
120 licensure and certification. Nothing in this subsection shall prevent the commission from  
121 establishing varying reimbursement rates based on quality or performance measures if such  
122 measures are the same for physicians licensed pursuant to chapter 112 and certified registered  
123 nurse anesthetists authorized to practice in an advanced practice nursing role pursuant to said  
124 section 80B.

125 (b) A claim submitted for payment must identify the National Provider Identifier of the  
126 physician or certified registered nurse anesthetist who provided the service.

127 (c) A contract between a subscriber and a medical service corporation shall: (i) reimburse  
128 a contracted certified registered nurse anesthetist who is authorized to practice in an advanced  
129 practice nursing role pursuant to said section 80B in an amount not less than the allowed amount  
130 that it would reimburse for the same service if provided by a contracted provider who is a  
131 physician licensed pursuant to chapter 112; and (ii) not reduce the reimbursement amount paid to  
132 physicians licensed under chapter 112 to comply with this section.

133 SECTION 11. Section 1 of chapter 176G of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby  
134 amended by inserting the following definition:—

135 “Certified registered nurse anesthetist”, A certified registered nurse anesthetist who is  
136 authorized to practice in an advanced practice nursing role pursuant to section 80B of chapter  
137 112.

138 SECTION 12. Section 1 of said chapter 176G is hereby further amended by inserting  
139 after the word “physician”, in the definition of “Health services”, the following:—



140 or certified registered nurse anesthetist

141 SECTION 13. Chapter 176G of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
142 adding the following section:-

143 Section 34. A contract between a member and a health maintenance organization shall  
144 not make a distinction, for the purposes of participation, coverage, and payment, between  
145 physicians licensed pursuant to chapter 112 and certified registered nurse anesthetists authorized  
146 to practice in an advanced practice nursing role pursuant to section 80B of chapter 112, if the  
147 physician or certified registered nurse anesthetist is acting within the scope of their practice  
148 pursuant to their licensure and certification. Nothing in this subsection shall prevent the  
149 commission from establishing varying reimbursement rates based on quality or performance  
150 measures as long as such measures are the same for physicians licensed pursuant to chapter 112  
151 and certified registered nurse anesthetists authorized to practice in an advanced practice nursing  
152 role pursuant to said section 80B

153 (b) A claim submitted for payment must identify the National Provider Identifier of the  
154 physician or certified registered nurse anesthetist who provided the service.

155 (c) A contract between a member and a health maintenance organization shall: (i)  
156 reimburse a contracted certified registered nurse anesthetist who is authorized to practice in an  
157 advanced practice nursing role pursuant to said section 80B in an amount not less than the  
158 allowed amount that it would reimburse for the same service if provided by a contracted provider  
159 who is a physician licensed pursuant to chapter 112; and (ii) not reduce the reimbursement  
160 amount paid to physicians licensed under chapter 112 to comply with this section.

161 SECTION 14. Chapter 176G of the General Laws is hereby further amended by adding  
162 the following section:—

163 Section 35. When a law or rule requires authorization or involvement of a physician as a  
164 condition of reimbursement or coverage of anesthesia services, that requirement may be fulfilled  
165 by a certified registered nurse anesthetist practicing in an advanced practice role under section  
166 80B of chapter 112.

167 SECTION 15. Chapter 176I of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the  
168 following section:-

169 Section 14. A preferred provider contract between a covered person and an organization  
170 shall not make a distinction, for the purposes of participation, coverage, and payment, between  
171 physicians licensed pursuant to chapter 112 and certified registered nurse anesthetists authorized  
172 to practice in an advanced practice nursing role pursuant to section 80B of said chapter 112, if  
173 the physician or advanced practice registered nurse is acting within the scope of their practice  
174 pursuant to their licensure and certification. Nothing in this subsection shall prevent the  
175 commission from establishing varying reimbursement rates based on quality or performance  
176 measures as long as such measures are the same for physicians licensed pursuant to chapter 112  
177 and certified registered nurse anesthetists practicing authorized to practice in an advanced  
178 practice nursing role pursuant to section 80B of said chapter 112.

179 (b) A claim submitted for payment must identify the National Provider Identifier of the  
180 physician or advanced practice registered nurse who provided the service.

181 (c) A preferred provider arrangement between a covered person and an organization  
182 shall: (i) reimburse a preferred provider certified registered nurse anesthetist who is authorized to

183 practice in an advanced practice nursing role pursuant to section 80B of chapter 112 in an  
184 amount not less than the allowed amount that it would reimburse for the same service if provided  
185 by a preferred provider who is a physician licensed pursuant to said chapter 112; and (ii) not  
186 reduce the reimbursement amount paid to physicians licensed under chapter 112 to comply with  
187 this section.