

SENATE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Julian Cyr

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 telehealth parity for nutrition counseling.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Julian Cyr

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Cape and Islands

SENATE No.

[Pin Slip]

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. 618 OF 2023-2024.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to telehealth parity for nutrition counseling.

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. Section 30 of chapter 32A of the General Laws, as inserted by section 3 of
2 chapter 260 of the acts of 2020, is hereby amended by inserting the following definition:-

3 “Medical nutrition therapy” the provision of nutrition care services, including nutrition
4 counseling, provided by a licensed dietitian/nutritionist within the field of dietetics and nutrition
5 as defined in section 201 of chapter 112 of the General Laws, aimed at prevention, delay,
6 management, or treatment of a disease or condition.

7 SECTION 2. Said section 30 of said chapter 32A of the General Laws, as inserted by
8 section 3 of chapter 260 of the acts of 2020, is hereby further amended by striking out subsection
9 (g) and inserting in place thereof the following subsection:-

10 (g) The commission shall ensure that the rate of payment for in-network providers of
11 behavioral health services and in-network providers of medical nutrition therapy delivered via
12 interactive audio-video technology and audio-only telephone shall be no less than the rate of
13 payment for the same service delivered via in-person methods; provided, that this subsection
14 shall apply to providers of behavioral health services and medical nutrition therapy covered as
15 required under subclause (i) of clause (4) of the second sentence of subsection (a) of section 6 of
16 chapter 176O.

17 SECTION 3. Section 79 of chapter 118E of the General Laws, as inserted by section 40
18 of chapter 260 of the acts of 2020, is hereby amended by inserting the following definition:-

19 “Medical Nutrition Therapy” the provision of nutrition care services, including nutrition
20 counseling, provided by a licensed dietitian/nutritionist within the field of dietetics and nutrition
21 as defined in section 201 of chapter 112 of the General Laws, aimed at prevention, delay,
22 management, or treatment of a disease or condition.

23 SECTION 4. Said section 79 of said chapter 118E of the General Laws, as inserted by
24 section 40 of chapter 260 of the acts of 2020, is hereby further amended by striking out
25 subsection (g) and inserting in place thereof the following subsection:-

26 (g) The division shall ensure that the rate of payment for in-network providers of
27 behavioral health services and in-network providers of medical nutrition therapy delivered via
28 interactive audio-video technology and audio-only telephone shall be no less than the rate of
29 payment for the same service delivered via in-person methods; provided, that this subsection
30 shall apply to providers of behavioral health services and providers of medical nutrition therapy

31 covered as required under subclause (i) of clause (4) of the second sentence of subsection (a) of
32 section 6 of chapter 176O.

33 SECTION 5. Subsection (a) of section 47MM of chapter 175 of the General Laws, as
34 inserted by section 47 of chapter 260 of the acts of 2020, is hereby amended by inserting the
35 following definition:-

36 “Medical Nutrition Therapy” the provision of nutrition care services, including nutrition
37 counseling, provided by a licensed dietitian/nutritionist within the field of dietetics and nutrition
38 as defined in section 201 of chapter 112 of the General Laws, aimed at prevention, delay,
39 management, or treatment of a disease or condition.

40 SECTION 6. Said section 47MM of said chapter 175 of the General Laws, as inserted by
41 section 40 of chapter 260 of the acts of 2020, is hereby further amended by striking out
42 subsection (g) and inserting in place thereof the following subsection:-

43 (g) Insurance companies organized under this chapter shall ensure that the rate of
44 payment for in-network providers of behavioral health services and in-network providers of
45 medical nutrition therapy delivered via interactive audio-video technology and audio-only
46 telephone shall be no less than the rate of payment for the same service delivered via in-person
47 methods; provided, that this subsection shall apply to providers of behavioral health services and
48 providers of medical nutrition therapy covered as required under subclause (i) of clause (4) of the
49 second sentence of subsection (a) of section 6 of chapter 176O.

50 SECTION 7. Section 38 of chapter 176A of the General Laws, as inserted by section 49
51 of chapter 260 of the acts of 2020, is hereby amended by inserting the following definition:-

52 “Medical Nutrition Therapy” the provision of nutrition care services, including nutrition
53 counseling, provided by a licensed dietitian/nutritionist within the field of dietetics and nutrition
54 as defined in section 201 of chapter 112 of the General Laws, aimed at prevention, delay,
55 management, or treatment of a disease or condition.

56 SECTION 8. Said section 38 of said chapter 176A of the General Laws, as inserted by
57 section 40 of chapter 260 of the acts of 2020, is hereby further amended by striking out
58 subsection (g) and inserting in place thereof the following subsection:-

59 (g) Hospital service corporations shall ensure that the rate of payment for in-network
60 providers of behavioral health services and in-network providers of medical nutrition therapy
61 delivered via interactive audio-video technology and audio-only telephone shall be no less than
62 the rate of payment for the same service delivered via in-person methods; provided, that this
63 subsection shall apply to providers of behavioral health services and providers of medical
64 nutrition therapy covered as required under subclause (i) of clause (4) of the second sentence of
65 subsection (a) of section 6 of chapter 176O.

66 SECTION 9. Section 25 of chapter 176B of the General Laws, as inserted by section 51
67 of chapter 260 of the acts of 2020, is hereby amended by inserting the following definition:-

68 “Medical Nutrition Therapy” the provision of nutrition care services, including nutrition
69 counseling, provided by a licensed dietitian/nutritionist within the field of dietetics and nutrition
70 as defined in section 201 of chapter 112 of the General Laws, aimed at prevention, delay,
71 management, or treatment of a disease or condition.

72 SECTION 10. Said section 25 of said chapter 176B of the General Laws, as inserted by
73 section 40 of chapter 260 of the acts of 2020, is hereby further amended by striking out
74 subsection (g) and inserting in place thereof the following subsection:-

75 (g) Medical service corporations shall ensure that the rate of payment for in-network
76 providers of behavioral health services and in-network providers of medical nutrition therapy
77 delivered via interactive audio-video technology and audio-only telephone shall be no less than
78 the rate of payment for the same service delivered via in-person methods; provided, that this
79 subsection shall apply to providers of behavioral health services and providers of medical
80 nutrition therapy covered as required under subclause (i) of clause (4) of the second sentence of
81 subsection (a) of section 6 of chapter 176O.

82 SECTION 11. Section 33 of chapter 176G of the General Laws, as inserted by section 51
83 of chapter 260 of the acts of 2020, is hereby amended by inserting the following definition:-

84 “Medical Nutrition Therapy” the provision of nutrition care services, including nutrition
85 counseling, provided by a licensed dietitian/nutritionist within the field of dietetics and nutrition
86 as defined in section 201 of chapter 112 of the General Laws, aimed at prevention, delay,
87 management, or treatment of a disease or condition.

88 SECTION 12. Said section 33 of chapter 176G of the General Laws, as inserted by
89 section 40 of chapter 260 of the acts of 2020, is hereby further amended by striking out
90 subsection (g) and inserting in place thereof the following subsection:-

91 (g) Health maintenance organizations shall ensure that the rate of payment for in-
92 network providers of behavioral health services and in-network providers of medical nutrition
93 therapy delivered via interactive audio-video technology and audio-only telephone shall be no

94 less than the rate of payment for the same service delivered via in-person methods; provided, that
95 this subsection shall apply to providers of behavioral health services and providers of medical
96 nutrition therapy covered as required under subclause (i) of clause (4) of the second sentence of
97 subsection (a) of section 6 of chapter 176O.

98 SECTION 13. Section 13 of chapter 176I of the General Laws, as inserted by section 51
99 of chapter 260 of the acts of 2020, is hereby amended by inserting the following definition:-

100 “Medical Nutrition Therapy” the provision of nutrition care services, including nutrition
101 counseling, provided by a licensed dietitian/nutritionist within the field of dietetics and nutrition
102 as defined in section 201 of chapter 112 of the General Laws, aimed at prevention, delay,
103 management, or treatment of a disease or condition.

104 SECTION 14. Said section 13 of chapter 176I of the General Laws, as inserted by section
105 40 of chapter 260 of the acts of 2020, is hereby further amended by striking out subsection (g)
106 and inserting in place thereof the following subsection:-

107 (g) Organizations shall ensure that the rate of payment for in-network providers of
108 behavioral health services and in-network providers of medical nutrition therapy delivered via
109 interactive audio-video technology and audio-only telephone shall be no less than the rate of
110 payment for the same service delivered via in-person methods; provided, that this subsection
111 shall apply to providers of behavioral health services and providers of medical nutrition therapy
112 covered as required under subclause (i) of clause (4) of the second sentence of subsection (a) of
113 section 6 of chapter 176O.