

SENATE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

John J. Cronin

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 improving access to community behavioral health centers.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

John J. Cronin

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Worcester and Middlesex

SENATE No.

[Pin Slip]

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. 613 OF 2023-2024.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act improving access to community behavioral health centers.

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 2022 official edition,
2 is hereby amended by inserting after section 30 the following new section:-

3 Section 31. (a) For the purposes of this section, the following words shall have the
4 following meanings:

5 “Behavioral health bundled services”, services delivered by a community behavioral
6 health center as specified in 101 CMR 305.00 for the evaluation, diagnosis, treatment, care
7 coordination, management, or peer support of patients with mental health, developmental or
8 substance use disorder, provided that services are reimbursed through a flat rate per encounter.

9 “Community Behavioral Health Centers”, a clinic licensed by the department of public
10 health and regulated pursuant to 130 CMR 448.00.

11 (b) Any health plan offered by the commission shall provide to an active or retired
12 employee of the commonwealth who is insured under the group insurance commission benefits
13 on a nondiscriminatory basis for medically necessary behavioral health bundled services
14 delivered through community behavioral health centers.

15 SECTION 2. Chapter 175 of the general laws, as appearing in the 2022 official edition, is
16 hereby amended by inserting after section 47PP the following new section:-

17 Section 47QQ. (a) For the purposes of this section, the following words shall have the
18 following meanings:

19 “Behavioral health bundled services”, services delivered by a community behavioral
20 health center as specified in 101 CMR 305.00 for the evaluation, diagnosis, treatment, care
21 coordination, management, or peer support of patients with mental health, developmental or
22 substance use disorder, provided that services are reimbursed through a flat rate per encounter.

23 “Community Behavioral Health Centers”, a clinic licensed by the department of public
24 health and regulated pursuant to 130 CMR 448.00.

25 (b) Any individual policy of accident and sickness insurance issued pursuant to section
26 108, which provides hospital expense and surgical expense insurance, and a group blanket or
27 general policy of accident and sickness insurance issued pursuant to section 110, which provides
28 hospital expense and surgical expense insurance, which is issued or renewed within or without
29 the commonwealth, shall provide benefits on a nondiscriminatory basis for medically necessary
30 behavioral health bundled services delivered through community behavioral health centers.

31 SECTION 3. Chapter 176A of the general laws, as appearing in the 2022 official edition,
32 is hereby amended by inserting after section 38 the following new section:-

33 Section 39. (a) For the purposes of this section, the following words shall have the
34 following meanings:

35 “Behavioral health bundled services”, services delivered by a community behavioral
36 health center as specified in title 101 CMR 305.00 for the evaluation, diagnosis, treatment, care
37 coordination, management, or peer support of patients with mental health, developmental or
38 substance use disorder, provided that services are reimbursed through a flat rate per encounter.

39 “Community Behavioral Health Centers”, a clinic licensed by the department of public
40 health and regulated pursuant to 130 CMR 448.00.

41 (b) Any contract between a subscriber and the corporation under an individual or group
42 hospital service plan which is issued or renewed within or without the commonwealth shall
43 provide benefits on a nondiscriminatory basis for medically necessary behavioral health bundled
44 services delivered through community behavioral health centers.

45 SECTION 4. Chapter 176B of the general laws, as appearing in the 2022 official edition,
46 is hereby amended by inserting after section 25 the following new section:-

47 Section 26. (a) For the purposes of this section, the following words shall have the
48 following meanings:

49 “Behavioral health bundled services”, services delivered by a community behavioral
50 health center as specified in title 101 CMR 305.00 for the evaluation, diagnosis, treatment, care

51 coordination, management, or peer support of patients with mental health, developmental or
52 substance use disorder, provided that services are reimbursed through a flat rate per encounter.

53 “Community Behavioral Health Centers”, a clinic licensed by the department of public
54 health and regulated pursuant to 130 CMR 448.00.

55 (b) Any subscription certificate under an individual or group medical service agreement
56 which is issued or renewed within or without the commonwealth shall provide benefits on a
57 nondiscriminatory basis for medically necessary behavioral health bundled services delivered
58 through community behavioral health centers.

59 SECTION 5. Chapter 176G of the general laws, as appearing in the 2022 official edition,
60 is hereby amended by inserting after section 33 the following new section:-

61 Section 34. (a) For the purposes of this section, the following words shall have the
62 following meanings:

63 “Behavioral health bundled services”, services delivered by a community behavioral
64 health center as specified in 101 CMR 305.00 for the evaluation, diagnosis, treatment, care
65 coordination, management, or peer support of patients with mental health, developmental or
66 substance use disorder, provided that services are reimbursed through a flat rate per encounter.

67 “Community Behavioral Health Centers”, a clinic licensed by the department of public
68 health and regulated pursuant to title 130 CMR 448.00.

69 (b) Any health maintenance contract issued or renewed within or without the
70 commonwealth shall provide benefits on a nondiscriminatory basis for medically necessary
71 behavioral health bundled services delivered through community behavioral health centers.