

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES
2025-2026 (194th) BILL SUMMARY**

Bill No: H4162

Title: AN ACT TO INCREASE ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE FOR OSTOMY PATIENTS

Sponsor: Rep. Rob Consalvo (*Boston*)

Hearing Date: September 17, 2025

Reporting Deadline: November 16, 2025

Prior History: None

Similar Matters: None

CURRENT LAW:

M.G.L. c. 32A Contributory Group General or Blanket Insurance for Persons in the Service of the Commonwealth (Group Insurance Commission)

M.G.L. c. 111 Public Health

M.G.L. c. 112 Registration of Certain Professions and Occupations

M.G.L. c. 118E Division of Medical Assistance (MassHealth)

M.G.L. c. 175 Insurance

M.G.L. c. 176A Non-Profit Hospital Service Corporations (Blue Cross of Massachusetts)

M.G.L. c. 176B Medical Service Corporations (Blue Shield of Massachusetts)

M.G.L. c. 176G Health Maintenance Organizations

SUMMARY:

SECTION 1. The Group Insurance Commission (GIC) commission will provide ostomy supply coverage. If a person obtains new health insurance coverage, the previous insurer will transfer the health plan member's information to the new insurer within 72 hours. Payers will reimburse ostomy care suppliers at a rate equivalent no lower than the Medicare reimbursement rate.

SECTION 2. Acute care hospitals that perform ostomies will employ ostomy care specialists and will provide appropriate ostomy outpatient care.

SECTION 3. Prescriptions issued by physician's licensed in the Commonwealth for ostomy supplies will be valid for one year with corresponding insurance coverage. Ostomy supply

limitations will be determined based on a physician's medical judgement. Ostomy prescriptions will be exempt from insurer approval and appeals processes. Ostomy suppliers will provide a month's notice of a prescription's expiration to both the patient and the prescriber. Ostomy supply prescriptions will be dispensed as written with a month's notice of substitution and provision of patient samples of new products. The patient will retain the option of reverting back to their original ostomy supplies.

SECTION 4. MassHealth will provide coverage for ostomy care supplies. The use of non-medical supplies will not be required for a patient to receive ostomy supply coverage. If a person obtains new health insurance coverage, the previous insurer will transfer the health plan member's information to the new insurer within 72 hours. Payers will reimburse ostomy care suppliers at a rate equivalent no lower than the Medicare reimbursement rate. Ostomy suppliers will provide a month's notice of a prescription's expiration to both the patient and the prescriber. Ostomy supply prescriptions will be dispensed as written with a month's notice of substitution and provision of patient samples of new products. The patient will retain the option of reverting back to their original ostomy supplies.

SECTION 5. Accident and sickness policies will provide coverage for ostomy care supplies. The use of non-medical supplies will not be required for a patient to receive ostomy supply coverage. If a person obtains new health insurance coverage, the previous insurer will transfer the health plan member's information to the new insurer within 72 hours. Payers will reimburse ostomy care suppliers at a rate equivalent no lower than the Medicare reimbursement rate. Ostomy suppliers will provide a month's notice of a prescription's expiration to both the patient and the prescriber. Ostomy supply prescriptions will be dispensed as written with a month's notice of substitution and provision of patient samples of new products. The patient will retain the option of reverting back to their original ostomy supplies.

SECTION 6. Blue Cross policies will provide coverage for ostomy care supplies. The use of non-medical supplies will not be required for a patient to receive ostomy supply coverage. If a person obtains new health insurance coverage, the previous insurer will transfer the health plan member's information to the new insurer within 72 hours. Payers will reimburse ostomy care suppliers at a rate equivalent no lower than the Medicare reimbursement rate. Ostomy suppliers will provide a month's notice of a prescription's expiration to both the patient and the prescriber. Ostomy supply prescriptions will be dispensed as written with a month's notice of substitution and provision of patient samples of new products. The patient will retain the option of reverting back to their original ostomy supplies.

SECTION 7. Blue Shield policies will provide coverage for ostomy care supplies. The use of non-medical supplies will not be required for a patient to receive ostomy supply coverage. If a person obtains new health insurance coverage, the previous insurer will transfer the health plan member's information to the new insurer within 72 hours. Payers will reimburse ostomy care suppliers at a rate equivalent no lower than the Medicare reimbursement rate. Ostomy suppliers will provide a month's notice of a prescription's expiration to both the patient and the prescriber. Ostomy supply prescriptions will be dispensed as written with a month's notice of substitution and provision of patient samples of new products. The patient will retain the option of reverting back to their original ostomy supplies.

SECTION 8. HMOs will provide coverage for ostomy care supplies. The use of non-medical supplies will not be required for a patient to receive ostomy supply coverage. If a person obtains new health insurance coverage, the previous insurer will transfer the health plan member's information to the new insurer within 72 hours. Payers will reimburse ostomy care suppliers at a rate equivalent no lower than the Medicare reimbursement rate. Ostomy suppliers will provide a month's notice of a prescription's expiration to both the patient and the prescriber. Ostomy supply prescriptions will be dispensed as written with a month's notice of substitution and provision of patient samples of new products. The patient will retain the option of reverting back to their original ostomy supplies.