

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES  
2025-2026 (194<sup>th</sup>) BILL SUMMARY**

**Bill No:** H1140

**Title:** AN ACT TO REMOVE BARRIERS TO PATIENT CARE

**Sponsor:** Rep Daniel M. Donahue (*Worcester*)

**Hearing Date:** July 15, 2025

**Reporting Deadline:** August 13, 2025

**Prior History:** None

**Similar Matters:** S801(Moore – Identical)

**CURRENT LAW:**

*M.G.L. c. 112 Registration of Certain Professions and Occupations § 80B Nursing practice; advanced practice; licensed practical nurses*

Nursing practice involves clinical decision making leading to the development and implementation of a strategy of care to accomplish defined goals, the administration of medication, therapeutics and treatment prescribed by duly authorized nurses in advanced roles, including certified nurse midwives, nurse practitioners, nurse anesthetists and psychiatric nurse mental health clinical specialists; dentists; physicians; and physician assistants' and the evaluation of responses to care and treatment. It includes but is not limited to the performance of services which promote and support optimal functioning across the life span; the collaboration with other members of the health team to achieve defined goals; health counseling and teaching; the provision of comfort measures; teaching and supervising others; and participation in research which contributes to the expansion of nursing knowledge.

*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 (HMOs)*

*M.G.L. c. 176O Health Insurance Consumer Protections Section 16: Clinical decisions regarding medical treatment made by treating physicians; payment for health care services ordered by treating physician or primary care provider*

*Chapter 305 of the Acts of 2008, An Act to promote cost containment, transparency and efficiency in the delivery of quality health care*

Formally recognized nurse practitioners as primary care providers. Required insurance carriers to include nurse practitioners in their panels of primary care providers.

*Chapter 224 of the Acts of 2012, An Act improving the quality of health care and reducing costs through increased transparency, efficiency and innovation*

Granted nurse practitioners global signatory authority. When a law or rule requires a signature, certification, stamp, verification, affidavit or endorsement by a physician, when relating to physical or mental health, that requirement may be fulfilled by a nurse practitioner or psychiatric nurse mental health clinical specialist.

*Chapter 260 of the Acts of 2020, An Act promoting a resilient health care system that puts patients first*

Granted Full Practice Authority (FPA) to eligible Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs). Eliminated the requirement for physician supervision for certain APRN services, allowing them to practice independently to the full extent of their education and training.

**SUMMARY:**

This bill amends the general laws to recognize advanced practice nurses' involvement in patient care and to eliminate health insurer requirements that certain care be provided by a physician as a condition of coverage.

The bill allows advanced practice nurses to make diagnostic evaluations, medical necessity determinations, certifications, written orders, prescriptions, or treatment recommendations within their scope of practice.