

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

Bill No: H1147

Title: AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE SUSTAINABILITY OF PUBLIC HEALTH DENTAL HYGIENISTS THROUGH ADEQUATE REIMBURSEMENT

Sponsor: Rep. Patricia A. Duffy (*Holyoke*)

Hearing Date: October 27, 2025

Reporting Deadline: December 3, 2025

Prior History:

2023-24 (S664): Reported favorably; Referred to Health Care Financing; Ordered to a House Study

2021-22 (H2319): Public Health Reported favorably; Referred to Health Care Financing; Ordered to a House Study

2019-20 (H1928): Public Health Reported favorably; Referred to Health Care Financing; No further action taken

2017-18 (H613): Health Care Financing Ordered to a House Study

Similar Matters: S778 (Lewis – Identical)

CURRENT LAW:

M.G.L. c.112 Registration of Certain Professions & Occupations §51 Dental Hygienists

This section includes provisions specific to public health hygienists, including one allowing direct reimbursement of public health hygienists by Medicaid (MassHealth) The provision prohibits public health hygienists from seeking reimbursement from any other insurance or third-party payer.

SUMMARY:

Currently, MassHealth reimburses public health hygienists for their services. This bill would allow public health hygienists to seek reimbursement from private insurance carriers as well.