

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

**Bill No:** H1170

**Title:** AN ACT RELATIVE TO ACCESS TO CARE FOR EHLER DANLOS PATIENTS

**Sponsor:** Rep. Colleen M. Garry (*Dracut*)

**Hearing Date:** June 24, 2025

**Reporting Deadline:** August 23, 2025

**Prior History:**

2023-24 (H1022): Ordered to a House Study

2021-22 (H1095): Reported favorably; Referred to Health Care Financing; Ordered to a House Study

2019-20 (H986): Ordered to a House Study

2017-18 (H3488): Ordered to a House Study

2015-16 (H861): Ordered to a House Study

**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. 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)*

**SUMMARY:**

This bill would require the Group Insurance Commission (GIC) and commercial health insurance carriers to provide coverage for preventative, ongoing chronic maintenance and acute treatment physical therapy for Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome patients when determined to be medically necessary and ordered by a physician after making a thorough evaluation of the patient's symptoms, diagnostic test results and response in therapy.

This bill would prohibit commercial health insurance carriers from denying therapy benefits solely because such therapy may be categorized as unproven, experimental, or investigational.