

## Joint Committee on Health Care Financing 2025-2026 (194th) Bill Summary

<b><u>Bill Number:</u></b>	House, No. 1382
<b><u>Title:</u></b>	AN ACT TO PROMOTE CONTINUITY OF HEALTH COVERAGE FOR CHILDREN
<b><u>Sponsor:</u></b>	Representative John J. Lawn, Jr. (Watertown)
<b><u>Hearing Date:</u></b>	July 15, 2025
<b><u>Reporting Deadline:</u></b>	September 13, 2025
<b><u>Prior History:</u></b>	2023-24 (H1214): A refile H1214 from the 2023-2024 legislative session. Referred to the Joint Committee on Health Care Financing. Public hearing on July 25, 2023. Reported Ought to Pass and referred to House Ways & Means on April 18, 2024. No further action taken.
<b><u>Similar Matters:</u></b>	S854 (DiDomenico – Identical, Health Care Financing)

### **Current Law:**

**M.G.L. Ch. 118E § 1** designates the Executive Office of Health and Human Services [EOHHS] as the single state agency responsible for the administration of any programs of medical assistance and medical benefits established pursuant to Chapter 118E. The Secretary of EOHHS is authorized to take actions, through the division of medical assistance [DMA] and the secretary of aging and independence, as appropriate, in this capacity, in accordance with section 2 of Chapter 118E.

**M.G.L. Ch. 118E § 9** establishes the Massachusetts Medicaid program and outlines its basic eligibility criteria.

**M.G.L. Ch. 118E § 9A** authorizes DMA to implement a combined Medicaid program and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), known as MassHealth, in accordance with the terms and conditions of a demonstration project approved by the Secretary pursuant to section 1115(a) of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. Section 1315(a) or any other federal waiver or demonstration authority and lists beneficiary categories for whom MassHealth may provide medical benefits.

- On September 28, 2022, CMS approved the Commonwealth's request to extend the MassHealth demonstration (Project Number 11-W-00030/1 and 21-W00071/1), in accordance with section 1115(a) of the Social Security Act (the Act), effective October 1, 2022, through December 31, 2027.

**M.G.L. Ch. 118E § 16C** establishes the Massachusetts Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and outlines its basic eligibility criteria.

**Summary:** The proposed legislation amends section 9A of chapter 118E to require that MassHealth provide at least 12 months of uninterrupted coverage for all eligible resident children aged 18 and younger unless the child falls under 1 of the following 5 exclusions:

- (i) the child turns 19, except when MassHealth provides continuous eligibility to residents over age 19;
- (ii) the child ceases to be a state resident;
- (iii) the child or the child's representative requests voluntary disenrollment;
- (iv) eligibility is determined to have been erroneously granted because of agency error or fraud, abuse, or perjury attributed to the child or the child's representative; or
- (v) the child is deceased.

EOHHS is directed to maximize federal financial participation for the coverage and benefits of this section, however, such coverage and benefits shall not be contingent upon the availability of federal financial participation.