

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

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| <b><u>Bill Number:</u></b>        | House, No. 1403  |
| <b><u>Title:</u></b>              | AN ACT TO ENSURE EQUITABLE HEALTH COVERAGE FOR CHILDREN  |
| <b><u>Sponsor:</u></b>            | Representative David M. Rogers (Cambridge)   |
| <b><u>Hearing Date:</u></b>       | July 15, 2025  |
| <b><u>Reporting Deadline:</u></b> | September 13, 2025   |
| <b><u>Prior History:</u></b>      | A refile of H1237 & S740 from the 2023-2024 legislative session. H1237 referred to the Joint Committee on Health Care Financing. Public hearing held on July 25, 2023. Accompanied S0740 on October 30, 2023. S740 referred to the Joint Committee on Health Care Financing. Public hearing held on July 25, 2023. Reported Ought to Pass, accompanied by H1237, and referred to the Senate Ways and Means Committee on October 30, 2023. No further action taken. |
| <b><u>Similar Matters:</u></b>    | S855 (DiDomenico - Identical, Health Care Financing)   |

### **Current Law:**

**Chapter 118E of the General Laws** pertains to the state Medicaid program [MassHealth].

**M.G.L. Ch. 118E § 9A** authorizes the division to implement 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 USC Section 1315(a) or any other federal waiver or demonstration authority.

### **Summary:**

This legislation creates a new Section 16E under Chapter 118E, establishing a program to provide comprehensive health coverage to children and young adults under the age of 21 who reside in the Commonwealth but are ineligible for benefits under Title XIX or Title XXI of the Social Security Act, or Section 9A of this chapter, solely because of their immigration status. Under this program, eligible individuals will receive MassHealth benefits equivalent to those available to others of the same age and income who meet categorical and financial eligibility standards set by the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) under Titles XIX and XXI. While EOHHS is directed to seek maximum federal financial participation, the provision of benefits under this section will not be contingent upon the availability of federal funding.