

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

<u>Bill Number:</u>	House, No. H4353
<u>Title:</u>	AN ACT RELATIVE TO APPLIED BEHAVIORAL ANALYSIS REIMBURSEMENT RATES
<u>Sponsor:</u>	Representative Christine Barber (Somerville)
<u>Hearing Date:</u>	January 15, 2026
<u>Reporting Deadline:</u>	January 28, 2026
<u>Prior History:</u>	New Bill
<u>Similar Matters:</u>	S2587 (Moore – Identical)

Current Law:

M.G.L. Chapter 12C – Establishes the Center for Health Information and Analysis (CHIA) as an independent agency tasked with collecting and analyzing health care data from providers, provider organizations, and payers. CHIA is required to publish annual reports on health care costs, spending trends, market oversight, and quality data in support of the annual health care cost trends hearings conducted by the Health Policy Commission.

M.G.L. c. 118E § 10H – Coverage for medically necessary treatments for persons younger than 21 years old diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder by a licensed physician or a licensed psychologist: Requires MassHealth to cover medically necessary treatments and services, including applied behavior analysis (ABA) that is supervised by a board certified behavior analyst, for people under age 21 who are diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder.

Summary:

This bill directs MassHealth, in consultation with CHIA, to conduct a review of payment rates for applied behavior analysis (ABA) services provided to publicly aided individuals, every two years. The review must compare Massachusetts' payment rates to the payment rates of states with similar cost-of-living; evaluate the impact of rates on provider recruitment and retention; account for anticipated cost increases related to future accreditation or regulatory requirements; and identify which services or populations, not previously mandated, may increase demand for ABA services.

MassHealth must submit its biennial review by October 1 of the year prior to the year in which updated rate regulations are issued. The review shall be sent to the House and Senate clerks, the chairs of House and Senate Ways and Means, and the chairs of the Joint Committee on Health Care Financing.