

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

Bill No: H5477

Title: AN ACT EXPANDING THE TREATMENT OF CLEFT PALATE AND CLEFT LIP

Sponsor: Rep. Steven Ultrino (*Malden*)

Hearing Date: June 22, 2026

Reporting Deadline: August 3, 2026

Prior History: 2023-24 (H4825): Ordered to a study.

Similar Matters: None

Current Law:

Chapter 234 of Acts of 2012, An Act relative to the treatment of cleft palate and cleft lip

The GIC, MassHealth, and commercial insurers will provide coverage for the cost of treating cleft lip and cleft palate for children under 18. Coverage will include benefits for medical, dental, oral and facial surgery, surgical management and follow-up care by oral and plastic surgeons, orthodontic treatment and management, preventative and restorative dentistry, speech therapy, audiology and medically necessary nutrition services.

Summary:

This bill eliminates the age limitation of the current law. The bill mandates that the group insurance commission (GIC), MassHealth, and commercial insurers, provide for all insureds, coverage for the cost of treating cleft lip and cleft palate.