

Joint Committee on Financial Services
Bill Summary

Bill No.: S697

Title: An Act to increase access to nurse-midwifery services

Sponsor: Senator Brendan Crighton

Bill History: Favorable from JCFS, Favorable from HCF to SWM

Hearing Date: 4/29/2025

Summary: Section 1: Amends chapter of the MGL governing GIC insurance for commonwealth employees by adding coverage for services from certified nurse midwives. Some additional requirements added to ensure quality and affordability of services. Requires that insurers cannot reduce payment to physicians to achieve these requirements. Section 2: Amends chapter of the MGL governing midwife benefits covered by insurance to require that midwives are paid the same as a licenses physician offering the same services. Requires that insurers cannot reduce payment to physicians to achieve this requirement. Section 3: Amends chapter of the MGL governing non-profit hospital service corporations to require that these hospitals must offer midwife services to all patients who live or primarily work in Massachusetts. Some additional requirements added to ensure quality and affordability of services. Requires that insurers cannot reduce payment to physicians to achieve these requirements. Section 4: Amends chapter of the MGL governing midwife benefits covered by medical service corporations to require that midwives are paid the same as a licenses physician offering the same services. Requires that insurers cannot reduce payment to physicians to achieve this requirement. Section 5: Amends chapter of the MGL governing HMO's to require that midwife services are covered under health maintenance contracts. Some additional requirements added to ensure quality and affordability of services. Requires that insurers cannot reduce payment to physicians to achieve these requirements.