

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

House of Representatives,

The committee on Bills in the Third Reading, to whom was referred the

Engrossed Bill relative to providing notices to individuals age 55 or older of options for enrolling in certain voluntary programs. (see House, No. H4933) being section 116 contained in the engrossed bill making appropriations for the fiscal year 2025 for the maintenance of the departments, boards, commissions, institutions, and certain activities of the Commonwealth, for interest, sinking fund and serial bond requirements, and for certain permanent improvements. (see House, No. 4800), which was returned by Her Excellency the Governor pursuant to Article LVI with recommendation of amendment specified by her, (see Attachment B of House, No. 4935)

Reports recommending that the amendment recommended by Her Excellency the Governor be considered in the following form:

By striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the following:

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Subsection (e) of section 9D of chapter 118E of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out paragraph (6) and inserting in place thereof the following paragraph:-

(6)(i) The executive office shall direct MassHealth to provide notice to each individual age 55 or older of the options for enrolling in voluntary programs for which they may be eligible, which may include Program of All Inclusive Care for the Elderly or PACE plans, Senior Care Options or SCO plans, One Care plans and Home and the Community-Based

Services Waiver program for frail elders when: (A) an individual age 55 and older is first enrolled in MassHealth; or (B) an individual undergoes their first eligibility redetermination after reaching the age of 55. Notice provided pursuant to this clause shall be consistent with the notice requirement pursuant to subparagraph (ii).

(ii) The executive office shall direct MassHealth to provide each beneficiary age 65 and older with an annual notice of the options for enrolling in voluntary programs, including

Program of All Inclusive Care for the Elderly or PACE plans, Senior Care Options or SCO plans, the Home and Community-Based Services Waiver program for frail elders or any other voluntary, elective benefit to which the beneficiary is entitled to supplement or replace their MassHealth benefits. If MassHealth receives approval from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, MassHealth shall arrange for the annual notice to include the names and contact information for the program providers, general contact information for MassHealth and a general description of the benefits of joining particular programs in clear and simple language and a method to request the same information in a language other than English. The notice shall include a method for the beneficiary to indicate interest in receiving additional information on any programs identified that may be of interest to them. The notice shall be supplied to a beneficiary every time the beneficiary is subject to a redetermination of eligibility. A draft of the proposed language and format for providing information to beneficiaries shall be circulated to the providers contracted to provide each of these programs for review and comment prior to finalization. The division shall work with the program providers and other appropriate stakeholders to assess whether and to what extent barriers to program enrollment shall be alleviated through modifications to the program or the enrollment process.

And that when so amended the same will be correctly drawn.

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For the Committee.