

HOUSE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Ronald Mariano

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act providing for insurance coverage for vision screening for children.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Ronald Mariano

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

3rd Norfolk

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 3931 OF 2007-2008.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

**AN ACT PROVIDING FOR INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR VISION SCREENING FOR
CHILDREN.**

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority
of the same, as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 32A of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2006 Official Edition, is hereby
2 amended by inserting after section 17I the following section: —

3 Section 17J. The commission shall provide to any active or retired employee of the
4 commonwealth who is insured under the group insurance commission coverage for the cost of a
5 vision screening for children conducted within 12 months prior to entering kindergarten, pursuant to
6 the first paragraph of section 57 of chapter 71. The vision screening shall be conducted by personnel
7 approved by the department of public health and trained in vision screening techniques developed by
8 the department of public health in consultation with the department of education.

9 For children who fail to pass the vision screening and for children diagnosed with
10 neurodevelopmental delay, the commission shall provide coverage of a comprehensive eye
11 examination performed by a licensed optometrist or ophthalmologist chosen by the child's parent or

12 guardian indicating any pertinent diagnosis, treatment, prognosis, recommendation and evidence of
13 follow-up treatment, if necessary.

14 SECTION 2. Chapter 118E of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 10F
15 the following section: —

16 Section 10G. The division shall provide coverage for the cost of a vision screening for
17 children conducted within 12 months prior to entering kindergarten, pursuant to the first paragraph
18 of section 57 of chapter 71. The vision screening shall be conducted by personnel approved by the
19 department of public health and trained in vision screening techniques developed by the department
20 of public health in consultation with the department of education.

21 For children who fail to pass the vision screening and for children diagnosed with
22 neurodevelopmental delay, the division shall provide coverage of a comprehensive eye examination
23 performed by a licensed optometrist or ophthalmologist chosen by the child's parent or guardian
24 indicating any pertinent diagnosis, treatment, prognosis, recommendation and evidence of follow-up
25 treatment, if necessary.

26 SECTION 3. Chapter 175 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 110L
27 the following section: —

28 Section 110M. Any blanket or general policy of insurance which is delivered or issued for
29 delivery within or without the commonwealth and which covers residents of the commonwealth and
30 any employees health and welfare fund which is promulgated or renewed to any person or group of
31 persons in the commonwealth shall provide coverage for a vision screening for children conducted
32 within 12 months prior to entering kindergarten, pursuant to the first paragraph of section 57 of
33 chapter 71.. The vision screening shall be conducted by personnel approved by the department of

34 public health and trained in vision screening techniques developed by the department of public
35 health in consultation with the department of education.

36 For children who fail to pass the vision screening and for children diagnosed with
37 neurodevelopmental delay, coverage shall be provided for a comprehensive eye examination
38 performed by a licensed optometrist or ophthalmologist chosen by the child's parent or guardian
39 indicating any pertinent diagnosis, treatment, prognosis, recommendation and evidence of follow-up
40 treatment, if necessary.

41 SECTION 4. Chapter 176A of the General Laws, is hereby amended by inserting after section 8Z
42 the following section:—

43 Section 8AA. Any contract between a subscriber and the corporation under an individual or
44 group hospital service plan that provides hospital expense and surgical expense insurance, delivered,
45 issued, or renewed by agreement between the insurer and the policyholder; within or without the
46 commonwealth, shall provide coverage for a vision screening for children conducted within 12
47 months prior to entering kindergarten, pursuant to the first paragraph of section 57 of chapter 71.
48 The vision screening shall be conducted by personnel approved by the department of public health
49 and trained in vision screening techniques developed by the department of public health in
50 consultation with the department of education.

51 For children who fail to pass the vision screening and for children diagnosed with
52 neurodevelopmental delay, coverage shall be provided for a comprehensive eye examination
53 performed by a licensed optometrist or ophthalmologist chosen by the child's parent or guardian
54 indicating any pertinent diagnosis, treatment, prognosis, recommendation and evidence of follow-up
55 treatment, if necessary.

56 SECTION 5. Chapter 176B of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 4Z the
57 following section:—

58 Section 4AA. Any subscription certificate under an individual or group medical service
59 agreement which provides hospital expense and surgical expense insurance, delivered, issued, or
60 renewed by agreement between the insurer and the policyholder, within or without the
61 commonwealth, shall provide coverage for a vision screening for children conducted within 12
62 months prior to entering kindergarten, pursuant to the first paragraph of section 57 of chapter 71.
63 The vision screening shall be conducted by personnel approved by the department of public health
64 and trained in vision screening techniques developed by the department of public health in
65 consultation with the department of education.

66 For children who fail to pass the vision screening and for children diagnosed with
67 neurodevelopmental delay, coverage shall be provided for a comprehensive eye examination
68 performed by a licensed optometrist or ophthalmologist chosen by the child's parent or guardian
69 indicating any pertinent diagnosis, treatment, prognosis, recommendation and evidence of follow-up
70 treatment, if necessary.

71 SECTION 6. Chapter 176G of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 4S the
72 following section:—

73 Section 4T. Any group health maintenance contract, except contracts providing supplemental
74 coverage to Medicare or to other government programs, delivered, issued or renewed by agreement
75 within or without the commonwealth shall provide to a member or enrollee coverage for a vision
76 screening for children conducted within 12 months prior to entering kindergarten, pursuant to the
77 first paragraph of section 57 of chapter 71. The vision screening shall be conducted by personnel

78 approved by the department of public health and trained in vision screening techniques developed by
79 the department of public health in consultation with the department of education.

80 For children who fail to pass the vision screening and for children diagnosed with
81 neurodevelopmental delay, coverage shall be provided for a comprehensive eye examination
82 performed by a licensed optometrist or ophthalmologist chosen by the child's parent or guardian
83 indicating any pertinent diagnosis, treatment, prognosis, recommendation and evidence of follow-up
84 treatment, if necessary.

85