

SENATE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Buoniconti, Stephen (SEN)

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 ensuring access to life-saving colorectal cancer screenings.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Buoniconti, Stephen (SEN)	Hampden

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

AN ACT ENSURING ACCESS TO LIFE-SAVING COLORECTAL CANCER SCREENINGS.

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 175 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 110M
2 the following section:-

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4 Section 110N. Any policy, contract, agreement, plan or certificate of insurance issued, delivered or
5 renewed within the commonwealth shall cover and reimburse for all colorectal cancer examinations
6 and laboratory tests specified in current American Cancer Society (ACS) guidelines for colorectal
7 cancer screening of asymptomatic individuals. Coverage or benefits shall be provided for all such
8 colorectal screening examinations and tests that are administered at a frequency identified in the
9 current ACS guidelines for colorectal cancer. The coverage required under this section must meet
10 the requirements set forth in subsection (b).

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12 (a) Benefits are provided under this section for a covered individual who is:

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14 (1) At least fifty (50) years of age; or

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16 (2) Less than fifty (50) years of age and at high risk for colorectal cancer
17 according to current colorectal cancer screening guidelines of the American
18 Cancer Society;

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20 (b) To encourage colorectal cancer screenings, patients and health care providers must
21 not be required to meet burdensome criteria or overcome significant obstacles to
22 secure such coverage. An individual shall not be required to pay an additional

23 deductible or coinsurance for testing that is greater than an annual deductible or
24 coinsurance established for similar benefits. If the program or contract does not cover
25 a similar benefit, a deductible or coinsurance may not be set at a level that materially
26 diminishes the value of the colorectal cancer benefit required. Reimbursement to
27 health care providers for colorectal cancer screenings provided under this section
28 shall be equal to or greater than reimbursement to health care providers provided
29 under Title XVII of the Social Security Act (Medicare).
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32 **SECTION 2.** Chapter 176A of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 8AA the
33 following section:-

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35 Section 8BB. Any contract between a subscriber and the corporation under an individual or group
36 hospital service plan delivered or issued or renewed within the commonwealth shall provide for the
37 coverage of colorectal screening examinations and tests that are administered at a frequency
38 identified in the current American Cancer Society guidelines for colorectal cancer as defined in, and
39 subject to the requirements and limitations of, Chapter 175 Section 110N.

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42 **SECTION 3.** Chapter 176B of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 4AA the
43 following section:-

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45 Section 4BB. Any subscription certificate under an individual or group medical service agreement
46 delivered, issued or renewed within the commonwealth shall provide for the coverage of colorectal
47 screening examinations and tests that are administered at a frequency identified in the current
48 American Cancer Society guidelines for colorectal cancer as defined in, and subject to the
49 requirements and limitations of, Chapter 175 Section 110N.

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52 **SECTION 4.** Chapter 176G of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 4S the
53 following section:-

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55 Section 4T. Any individual or group health maintenance contract shall provide for the coverage of
56 colorectal screening examinations and tests that are administered at a frequency identified in the
57 current American Cancer Society guidelines for colorectal cancer as defined in, and subject to the
58 requirements and limitations of, Chapter 175 Section 110N.

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61 **SECTION 5.** Chapter 32A of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 23 the
62 following section:-

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64 Section 24. Any coverage offered by the commission to any active or retired employee of the
65 commonwealth who is insured under the group insurance commission shall provide for the
66 coverage of colorectal screening examinations and tests that are administered at a frequency
67 identified in the current American Cancer Society guidelines for colorectal cancer as defined in, and
68 subject to the requirements and limitations of, Chapter 175 Section 110N.