

**SENATE . . . . . No.**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

**Tolman, Steven (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 providing for insurance coverage for vision screening for children**

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Tolman, Steven (SEN)

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Second Suffolk and Middlesex

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE SENATE, NO. S00123 OF 2007-2008.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**In the Year Two Thousand and Nine**

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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.

2 Chapter 32A of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 17H the  
3 following section:

4 Section 17I. The commission shall provide to any active or retired employee of the  
5 commonwealth who is insured under the group insurance commission coverage for the cost of a  
6 vision screening for children conducted within 12 months prior to entering kindergarten,  
7 pursuant to the first paragraph of section 57 of Chapter 71, as most recently amended by Chapter  
8 181 of the Acts of 2004. The vision screening shall be conducted by personnel approved by the  
9 department of public health and trained in vision screening techniques developed by the  
10 department of public health in consultation with the department of education.

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

16 SECTION 2. Chapter 118E of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section  
17 10A the following section:

18 Section 10B. The division shall provide coverage for the cost of a vision screening for children  
19 conducted within 12 months prior to entering kindergarten, pursuant to the first paragraph of  
20 section 57 of Chapter 71, as most recently amended by Chapter 181 of the Acts of 2004. The  
21 vision screening shall be conducted by personnel approved by the department of public health  
22 and trained in vision screening techniques developed by the department of public health in  
23 consultation with the department of education.

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

29 SECTION 3. Chapter 175 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 110I  
30 the following section:

31 Section 11OM. Any policy, contract, agreement, plan, or certificate of insurance issued,  
32 delivered, or renewed within the Commonwealth shall cover a vision screening for children  
33 conducted within 12 months prior to entering kindergarten, pursuant to the first paragraph of  
34 section 57 of Chapter 71, as most recently amended by Chapter 181 of the Acts of 2004. The  
35 vision screening shall be conducted by personnel approved by the department of public health  
36 and trained in vision screening techniques developed by the department of public health in  
37 consultation with the department of education.

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

43 SECTION 4. Chapter 176A of the General Laws is hereby further amended by inserting after  
44 section 8V the following section:-

45 Section 8W. Any policy, contract, agreement, plan, or certificate of insurance issued, delivered,  
46 or renewed within the Commonwealth shall cover a vision screening for children conducted  
47 within 12 months prior to entering kindergarten, pursuant to the first paragraph of section 57 of  
48 Chapter 71, as most recently amended by Chapter 181 of the Acts of 2004. The vision screening  
49 shall be conducted by personnel approved by the department of public health and trained in  
50 vision screening techniques developed by the department of public health in consultation with  
51 the department of education.

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

57 SECTION 5. Chapter 176B of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 4V  
58 the following section:-

59 Section 4W. Any policy, contract, agreement, plan, or certificate of insurance issued, delivered,  
60 or renewed within the Commonwealth shall cover a vision screening for children conducted  
61 within 12 months prior to entering kindergarten, pursuant to the first paragraph of section 57 of  
62 Chapter 71, as most recently amended by Chapter 181 of the Acts of 2004. The vision screening  
63 shall be conducted by personnel approved by the department of public health and trained in  
64 vision screening techniques developed by the department of public health in consultation with  
65 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  
70 follow-up treatment, if necessary.

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

73 Section 4O. Any policy, contract, agreement, plan, or certificate of insurance issued, delivered,  
74 or renewed within the Commonwealth shall cover a vision screening for children conducted  
75 within 12 months prior to entering kindergarten, pursuant to the first paragraph of section 57 of  
76 Chapter 71, as most recently amended by Chapter 181 of the Acts of 2004. The vision screening  
77 shall be conducted by personnel approved by the department of public health and trained in  
78 vision screening techniques developed by the department of public health in consultation with  
79 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  
84 follow-up treatment, if necessary.