

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 00274**

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

*Paul Brodeur and*

*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:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Paul Brodeur</i>	<i>32nd Middlesex</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>
<i>Denise Provost</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>
<i>Ronald Mariano</i>	<i>3rd Norfolk</i>
<i>Mark Cusack</i>	<i>5th Norfolk</i>

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 00274

By Mr. Paul Brodeur of Melrose, petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 00274) of Mark Cusack and others relative to providing health insurance coverage for vision screening for children. Joint Committee on Financial Services.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE  
□ HOUSE  
□ , NO. 977 OF 2009-2010.]

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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**In the Year Two Thousand Eleven**  
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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. Chapter 32A of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2006 Official Edition, is
- 2 hereby 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,
- 6 pursuant to the first paragraph of section 57 of chapter 71. The vision screening shall be
- 7 conducted by personnel approved by the department of public health and trained in vision
- 8 screening techniques developed by the department of public health in consultation with the
- 9 department of education.

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

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

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

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

27 SECTION 3. Chapter 175 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section  
28 110L the following section: —

29 Section 110M. Any blanket or general policy of insurance which is delivered or issued for  
30 delivery within or without the commonwealth and which covers residents of the commonwealth  
31 and any employees health and welfare fund which is promulgated or renewed to any person or

32 group of persons in the commonwealth shall provide coverage for 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.. The vision screening shall be conducted by personnel approved by the  
35 department of public health and trained in vision screening techniques developed by the  
36 department of public health in consultation with the department of education.

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

42 SECTION 4. Chapter 176A of the General Laws, is hereby amended by inserting after section  
43 8Z the following section:—

44 Section 8AA. Any contract between a subscriber and the corporation under an individual or  
45 group hospital service plan that provides hospital expense and surgical expense insurance,  
46 delivered, issued, or renewed by agreement between the insurer and the policyholder; within or  
47 without the commonwealth, shall provide coverage for a vision screening for children conducted  
48 within 12 months prior to entering kindergarten, pursuant to the first paragraph of section 57 of  
49 chapter 71. The vision screening shall be conducted by personnel approved by the department of  
50 public health and trained in vision screening techniques developed by the department of public  
51 health in consultation with 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 4Z  
58 the following section:—

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

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

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

74 Section 4T. Any group health maintenance contract, except contracts providing supplemental  
75 coverage to Medicare or to other government programs, delivered, issued or renewed by

76 agreement within or without the commonwealth shall provide to a member or enrollee coverage  
77 for a vision screening for children conducted within 12 months prior to entering kindergarten,  
78 pursuant to the first paragraph of section 57 of chapter 71. The vision screening shall be  
79 conducted by personnel approved by the department of public health and trained in vision  
80 screening techniques developed by the department of public health in consultation with the  
81 department of education.

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