

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 956**

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

*Theodore C. Speliotis*

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 adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to Lyme Disease treatment coverage.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Theodore C. Speliotis</i>	<i>13th Essex</i>
<i>John V. Fernandes</i>	<i>10th Worcester</i>
<i>William Smitty Pignatelli</i>	<i>4th Berkshire</i>
<i>Timothy R. Madden</i>	<i>Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket</i>
<i>James J. Dwyer</i>	<i>30th Middlesex</i>
<i>Jonathan D. Zlotnik</i>	<i>2nd Worcester</i>
<i>Joan B. Lovely</i>	<i>Second Essex</i>
<i>David M. Rogers</i>	<i>24th Middlesex</i>
<i>Robert L. Hedlund</i>	<i>Plymouth and Norfolk</i>
<i>Carole A. Fiola</i>	<i>6th Bristol</i>
<i>Sean Garballey</i>	<i>23rd Middlesex</i>
<i>Brian R. Mannal</i>	<i>2nd Barnstable</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 956**

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By Mr. Speliotis of Danvers, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 956) of Theodore C. Speliotis and others relative to Lyme Disease treatment coverage. Financial Services.

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court  
(2015-2016)  
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An Act relative to Lyme Disease treatment coverage.

*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 2012 Official  
2 Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after section 17K the following section:-

3 Section 17L. Any coverage offered by the commission to an active or retired employee of  
4 the commonwealth insured under the group insurance commission that provides coverage for  
5 cancer chemotherapy treatment shall provide coverage for Lyme disease therapy.

6 SECTION 2. Chapter 175 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
7 inserting after section 47DD, the following section:-

8 Section 47EE. Any policy, contract, agreement, plan or certificate of insurance issued,  
9 delivered or renewed within the commonwealth that provides medical expense coverage shall  
10 provide coverage for diagnostic testing and long-term antibiotic treatment of Lyme disease when  
11 determined to be medically necessary and ordered by a physician after making a thorough  
12 evaluation of the patient’s symptoms, diagnostic test results and response to therapy. Therapy

13 otherwise eligible for benefits pursuant to this section shall not be denied solely because such  
14 therapy may be characterized as unproven, experimental, or investigational in nature.

15 SECTION 3. Chapter 176A of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
16 inserting after section 8FF the following section:-

17 Section 8GG. Any contract between a subscriber and the corporation under an individual  
18 or group hospital service plan which is delivered, issued or renewed within the commonwealth  
19 shall provide coverage for diagnostic testing and long-term antibiotic therapy for Lyme disease  
20 when determined to be medically necessary and ordered by a physician after making a thorough  
21 evaluation of the patient's symptoms, diagnostic test results and response to therapy. Therapy  
22 otherwise eligible for benefits pursuant to this section shall not be denied solely because such  
23 therapy may be characterized as unproven, experimental, or investigational in nature.

24 SECTION 4. Chapter 176B of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
25 inserting after section 4FF, the following section:-

26 Section 4GG. Any subscription certificate under an individual or group medical service  
27 agreement delivered, issued, or renewed within the commonwealth shall provide coverage for  
28 diagnostic testing and long-term antibiotic therapy for Lyme disease when determined to be  
29 medically necessary and ordered by a physician after making a thorough evaluation of the  
30 patient's symptoms, diagnostic test results and response to therapy. Therapy otherwise eligible  
31 for benefits pursuant to this section shall not be denied solely because such therapy may be  
32 characterized as unproven, experimental, or investigational in nature.

33 SECTION 5. Chapter 176G of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
34 inserting after section 4X the following section:-

35           Section 4Y. Any individual or group health maintenance contract shall provide coverage  
36 for diagnostic testing and long-term antibiotic therapy for Lyme disease when determined to be  
37 medically necessary and ordered by a physician after making a thorough evaluation of the  
38 patient's symptoms, diagnostic test results and response to therapy. Therapy otherwise eligible  
39 for benefits pursuant to this section shall not be denied solely because such therapy may be  
40 characterized as unproven, experimental, or investigational in nature.