

SENATE No. 00438

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Mark C. Montigny

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 to provide insurance coverage of telemedicine services.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Mark C. Montigny</i>	<i>Second Bristol and Plymouth</i>
<i>James E. Timilty</i>	<i>Bristol and Norfolk</i>
<i>Colleen M. Garry</i>	<i>36th Middlesex</i>

SENATE No. 00438

By Mr. Montigny, petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 438) of Garry, Timilty and Montigny for legislation to provide insurance coverage of telemedicine services [Joint Committee on Financial Services].

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Eleven

An Act to provide insurance coverage of telemedicine services.

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 amended by inserting, after section
2 47AA, the following new section:

3 Section 47BB

4 (1) Definitions

5 Telemedicine-For the purposes of this section, "telemedicine," as it pertains to the delivery of
6 health care services, means the use of interactive audio, video or other electronic media for the
7 purpose of diagnosis, consultation or treatment. "Telemedicine" does not include the use of
8 audio-only telephone, facsimile machine or e-mail.

9 Telemedicine network. An insurer may limit coverage to those health care providers in a
10 telemedicine network approved by the insurer.

11 Deductible, copayment and coinsurance. A contract that provides coverage for services under
12 this section may contain a provision for a deductible, copayment or coinsurance requirement for
13 a health care service provided through telemedicine as long as the deductible, copayment or
14 coinsurance does not exceed the deductible, copayment or coinsurance applicable to an in-person
15 consultation.

16 Coverage consistency. Coverage for health care services under this section must be consistent
17 with coverage for health care services provided through in-person consultation.

18 (2) Application

19 The requirements of this Act apply to all policies, contracts and certificates executed, delivered,
20 issued for delivery, continued or renewed in this State on or after January 1, 2012. For purposes
21 of this Act, all contracts are deemed to be renewed no later than the next yearly anniversary of
22 the contract date.