

**SENATE . . . . . No. 607**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***Brendan P. Crighton***

*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 to increase access to nurse-midwifery services.**

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Brendan P. Crighton</i>	<i>Third Essex</i>	
<i>Lydia Edwards</i>	<i>Third Suffolk</i>	<i>2/8/2023</i>
<i>Patrick M. O'Connor</i>	<i>First Plymouth and Norfolk</i>	<i>2/8/2023</i>
<i>Thomas M. Stanley</i>	<i>9th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/14/2023</i>
<i>Anne M. Gobi</i>	<i>Worcester and Hampshire</i>	<i>2/14/2023</i>
<i>Joanne M. Comerford</i>	<i>Hampshire, Franklin and Worcester</i>	<i>2/14/2023</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	<i>3/6/2023</i>

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By Mr. Crighton, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 607) of Brendan P. Crighton, Lydia Edwards, Patrick M. O'Connor, Thomas M. Stanley and other members of the General Court for legislation relative to insurance coverage and access to nurse-midwifery services. Financial Services.

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[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE HOUSE, NO. 3881 OF 2021-2022.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

—————  
**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court  
(2023-2024)**  
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An Act to increase access to nurse-midwifery 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 32A of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the  
2 following section:-

3 Section 31. The commission shall provide to any active or retired employee of the  
4 commonwealth insured under the group insurance commission coverage for services rendered by  
5 a certified nurse midwife designated to engage in the practice of nurse-midwifery by the board of  
6 registration in nursing pursuant to section 80C of chapter 112; provided, however, that the  
7 following conditions are met: (1) the service rendered is within the scope of the certified nurse  
8 midwife’s authorization to practice by the board of registration in nursing; (2) the policy or  
9 contract currently provides benefits for identical services rendered by a health care provider

10 licensed by the commonwealth; and (3) the reimbursement for the services provided shall be in  
11 the same amount as the reimbursement paid under the policy to a licensed physician performing  
12 the service in the area served. An insurer may not reduce the reimbursement paid to a licensed  
13 physician to achieve compliance with this section.

14 SECTION 2. Chapter 118E of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the  
15 following section:-

16 Section 80. The division shall provide coverage for services rendered by a certified nurse  
17 midwife designated to engage in the practice of nurse-midwifery by the board of registration in  
18 nursing pursuant to section 80C of chapter 112; provided, however, that the following conditions  
19 are met: (1) the service rendered is within the scope of the certified nurse midwife's  
20 authorization to practice by the board of registration in nursing; (2) the policy or contract  
21 currently provides benefits for identical services rendered by a health care provider licensed by  
22 the commonwealth; and (3) the reimbursement for the services provided shall be in the same  
23 amount as the reimbursement paid under the policy to a licensed physician performing the  
24 service in the area served. An insurer may not reduce the reimbursement paid to a licensed  
25 physician to achieve compliance with this section.

26 SECTION 3. Section 47E of Chapter 175 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2018  
27 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding the following sentences:- The reimbursement for  
28 the services provided pursuant to this section shall be in the same amount as the reimbursement  
29 paid under the policy to a licensed physician performing the service in the area served. An  
30 insurer may not reduce the reimbursement paid to a licensed physician in order to comply with  
31 this section.

32 SECTION 4. Chapter 176A of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after  
33 section 80O the following section:-

34 Section 8PP. Any contract between a subscriber and the corporation under an individual  
35 or group hospital service plan which is delivered, issued or renewed in the commonwealth shall  
36 provide as a benefit to all individual subscribers and members within the commonwealth and to  
37 all group members having a principal place of employment within the commonwealth for  
38 services rendered by a certified nurse midwife designated to engage in the practice of nurse-  
39 midwifery by the board of registration in nursing pursuant to section 80C of chapter 112;  
40 provided, however, that the following conditions are met: (1) the service rendered is within the  
41 scope of the certified nurse midwife's authorization to practice by the board of registration in  
42 nursing; (2) the policy or contract currently provides benefits for identical services rendered by a  
43 health care provider licensed by the commonwealth; and (3) the reimbursement for the services  
44 provided shall be in the same amount as the reimbursement paid under the policy to a licensed  
45 physician performing the service in the area served. An insurer may not reduce the  
46 reimbursement paid to a licensed physician in order to comply with this section.

47 SECTION 5. Section 4G of Chapter 176B of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2018  
48 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding the following sentences:- The reimbursement for  
49 the services provided pursuant to this section shall be in the same amount as the reimbursement  
50 paid under the policy to a licensed physician performing the service in the area served. An  
51 insurer may not reduce the reimbursement paid to a licensed physician in order to comply with  
52 this section.

53 SECTION 6. Section 4 of Chapter 176G is of the General Laws, as so appearing, is  
54 hereby amended by adding the following subsection:-

55 (g) services rendered by a certified nurse midwife designated to engage in the practice of  
56 nurse-midwifery by the board of registration in nursing pursuant to section 80C of chapter 112,  
57 subject to the terms of a negotiated agreement between the health maintenance organization and  
58 the provider of health care services. The reimbursement for the services provided shall be in the  
59 same amount as the reimbursement paid under the policy to a licensed physician performing the  
60 service in the area served. An insurer may not reduce the reimbursement paid to a licensed  
61 physician in order to comply with this section.