

HOUSE No. 4179

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, June 12, 2014.

The committee on Health Care Financing to whom was referred the Bill providing for a viral hepatitis prevention, screening, treatment and education program (House, No. 2021) reports recommending that the accompanying bill ought to pass with an amendment substituting therefor the accompanying bill (House, No. 4179).

For the committee,

JENNIFER E. BENSON.

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Fourteen

An Act providing for a viral hepatitis prevention, screening, treatment and education program.

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 111 of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking out section
2 4M and inserting in place thereof the following section:-

3 Section 4M. Subject to appropriation, the department shall:

4 (1) conduct a needs assessment to determine the incidence and prevalence of hepatitis B
5 virus, and hepatitis C virus in the commonwealth;

6 (2) develop and implement a program to prevent further transmission of viral hepatitis
7 and to prevent onset of chronic liver disease caused by viral hepatitis;

8 (3) develop and implement a statewide public education and community outreach
9 program to raise awareness and promote prevention of viral hepatitis;

10 (4) develop or approve evidence-based educational materials on the risks, diagnosis,
11 treatment and prevention of viral hepatitis; provided that, the materials shall be made available in
12 written and electronic form and shall be targeted to physicians and other health care providers
13 and high-risk populations subject to an increased risk of contracting viral hepatitis as determined
14 by the department;

15 (5) support the establishment and maintenance of a chronic and acute hepatitis B and
16 hepatitis C surveillance program, in order to identify: (i) trends in the incidence of acute and
17 chronic hepatitis B and acute and chronic hepatitis C, (ii) trends in the prevalence of acute and
18 chronic hepatitis B and acute and chronic hepatitis C infection among groups that may be

19 disproportionately affected, and (iii) trends in liver cancer and end-stage liver disease
20 incidence and deaths caused by chronic hepatitis B and chronic hepatitis C in high-risk
21 populations; and

22 (6) annually report on the department's viral hepatitis education, awareness and
23 prevention education and community outreach efforts to the joint committee on public health on
24 or before January 1.

25 SECTION 2. Chapter 111 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
26 section 4M the following section:-

27 Section 4M 1/2. (a) As used in this section the following words shall, unless the context
28 clearly requires otherwise, have the following meanings:-

29 "Hepatitis C screening test", any FDA-approved laboratory screening test, FDA-
30 approved rapid point-of-care test, or other FDA-approved tests that detect the presence of
31 hepatitis C antibodies in the blood.

32 "Hepatitis C diagnostic test", a laboratory test that detects the presence of hepatitis C
33 virus in the blood and provides confirmation of whether the person whose blood is being tested
34 has a hepatitis C virus infection.

35 (b) Every individual born between the years of 1945 and 1965 who receives health care
36 services from a primary care provider shall be offered a hepatitis C screening test or Hepatitis C
37 diagnostic test unless the provider believes that: (i) the individual is being treated for a life
38 threatening emergency; or (ii) the individual has previously been offered or has received a
39 hepatitis screening test; or (iii) the individual lacks capacity to consent to a hepatitis C screening
40 test.