

SENATE No. 1290

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

John F. Keenan

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 establishing a commission to encourage acceptance of insurance by outpatient mental health providers.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

John F. Keenan

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Norfolk and Plymouth

SENATE No. 1290

By Mr. Keenan, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1290) of John F. Keenan for legislation to establish a commission to encourage acceptance of insurance by outpatient mental health providers. Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Second General Court
(2021-2022)**

An Act establishing a commission to encourage acceptance of insurance by outpatient mental health providers.

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. Notwithstanding any special or general law to the contrary, there shall be a
2 special commission to study and make recommendations on increasing acceptance of
3 commercial insurance and Medicaid by outpatient mental health providers.

4 The commission shall consist of the following members or their designees: the secretary
5 of health and human services, who shall serve as chair; the commissioner of insurance; the
6 director of Medicaid; the executive director of the group insurance commission; the house and
7 senate chairs of the joint committee on mental health, substance use, and recovery; and the
8 following members to be appointed by the chair: 1 of whom shall be a representative of the
9 Massachusetts Psychiatric Society, Inc.; 1 of whom shall be a representative of the
10 Massachusetts Psychological Association, Inc.; 1 of whom shall be a representative of the
11 National Association of Social Workers, Inc.; 1 of whom shall be a representative of the
12 Massachusetts Mental Health Counselors Association, Inc.; 1 of whom shall be a representative

13 of the Association for Behavioral Healthcare, Inc.; 1 of whom shall be a representative of the
14 National Alliance on Mental Illness of Massachusetts, Inc.; 1 of whom shall be a representative
15 of the Children’s Mental Health Campaign; 1 of whom shall be a representative of Blue Cross
16 and Blue Shield of Massachusetts, Inc.; and 1 of whom shall be a representative of the
17 Massachusetts Association of Health Plans, Inc.

18 The commission’s review shall include, but not be limited to: (i) creating aggregate
19 demographic and geographic profiles of outpatient mental health provider acceptance of
20 commercial insurance and Medicaid throughout the commonwealth; (ii) identifying barriers to
21 outpatient mental health providers’ acceptance of commercial insurance and Medicaid, including
22 but not limited to the impact of commercial and Medicaid reimbursement rates and
23 administrative processes; (iii) identifying ways to encourage outpatient mental health providers
24 to accept commercial insurance and Medicaid; (iii) the feasibility of requiring acceptance of
25 commercial insurance and Medicaid as a condition of licensure for outpatient mental health
26 providers; and (iv) other challenges of insured patients with a mental health disorder to accessing
27 outpatient mental health outpatient services, including, but not limited to experiences of young
28 people under the age of 22.

29 The commission shall submit its findings and recommendations, together with drafts of
30 legislation or regulations necessary to carry those recommendations into effect, to the clerks of
31 the senate and house of representatives and the joint committee on mental health, substance use
32 and recovery not later than 1 year after the effective date of this act.