

**SENATE . . . . . No. 525**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***James B. Eldridge***

*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 requiring insurance coverage for emergency psychiatric services.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	
<i>John F. Keenan</i>	<i>Norfolk and Plymouth</i>	<i>2/3/2017</i>
<i>Ruth B. Balsler</i>	<i>12th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/24/2017</i>
<i>Denise Provost</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/24/2017</i>
<i>David M. Rogers</i>	<i>24th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/24/2017</i>
<i>Jennifer E. Benson</i>	<i>37th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/26/2017</i>
<i>Patricia D. Jehlen</i>	<i>Second Middlesex</i>	<i>1/30/2017</i>
<i>Jennifer L. Flanagan</i>	<i>Worcester and Middlesex</i>	<i>1/30/2017</i>
<i>John J. Lawn, Jr.</i>	<i>10th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/30/2017</i>
<i>Patrick M. O'Connor</i>	<i>Plymouth and Norfolk</i>	<i>1/31/2017</i>
<i>James J. Dwyer</i>	<i>30th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/31/2017</i>
<i>Mike Connolly</i>	<i>26th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/1/2017</i>
<i>Paul R. Heroux</i>	<i>2nd Bristol</i>	<i>2/1/2017</i>
<i>Barbara A. L'Italien</i>	<i>Second Essex and Middlesex</i>	<i>2/2/2017</i>
<i>Colleen M. Garry</i>	<i>36th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/3/2017</i>
<i>Michelle M. DuBois</i>	<i>10th Plymouth</i>	<i>2/3/2017</i>
<i>Michael S. Day</i>	<i>31st Middlesex</i>	<i>2/3/2017</i>

**SENATE . . . . . No. 525**

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By Mr. Eldridge, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 525) of James B. Eldridge, John F. Keenan, Ruth B. Balsler, Denise Provost and other members of the General Court for legislation to require insurance coverage for emergency psychiatric services. Financial Services.

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**In the One Hundred and Ninetieth General Court  
(2017-2018)**  
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An Act requiring insurance coverage for emergency psychiatric 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. “Emergency services programs” shall mean all programs subject to contract  
2 between the Massachusetts Behavioral Health Partnership and nonprofit organizations for the  
3 provision of said emergency services.

4           SECTION 2. Chapter 32A of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the  
5 following section:-

6           Section 28. The commission shall provide to an active or retired employee of the  
7 commonwealth who is insured under the group insurance commission benefits on a  
8 nondiscriminatory basis for medically necessary emergency service programs.

9           SECTION 3. Chapter 175 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after  
10 section 47II the following section:-

11           Section 47JJ. An individual policy of accident and sickness insurance issued under  
12 section 108 that provides hospital expense and surgical expense insurance and any group blanket  
13 or general policy of accident and sickness insurance issued under section 110 that provides  
14 hospital expense and surgical expense insurance, which is issued or renewed within or without  
15 the commonwealth, shall provide benefits on a nondiscriminatory basis for medically necessary  
16 emergency service programs.

17           SECTION 4. Chapter 176A of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after  
18 section 8KK the following section:-

19           Section 8LL. A contract between a subscriber and the corporation under an individual or  
20 group hospital service plan which is issued or renewed within or without the commonwealth  
21 shall provide benefits on a nondiscriminatory basis for medically necessary emergency service  
22 programs.

23           SECTION 5. Chapter 176B of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after  
24 section 4KK the following section:-

25           Section 4LL. A subscription certificate under an individual or group medical service  
26 agreement which is issued or renewed within or without the commonwealth shall provide  
27 benefits on a nondiscriminatory basis for medically necessary emergency service programs.

28           SECTION 6. Chapter 176G of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after  
29 section 4CC the following section:-

30           Section 4DD. A health maintenance contract issued or renewed within or without the  
31 commonwealth shall provide benefits on a nondiscriminatory basis for medically necessary  
32 emergency service programs.

33           SECTION 7. All policies, contracts and certificates of health insurance subject to section  
34 28 of chapter 32A, section 47JJ of chapter 175, section 8LL of chapter 176A, section 4LL of  
35 chapter 176B, and section 4DD of chapter 176G of the General Laws which are delivered, issued  
36 or renewed on or after January 1, 2018 shall conform with the provisions of this act. Form filings  
37 implementing this act shall be subject to the approval of the commissioner of insurance.

38           SECTION 8. This act shall take effect on January 1, 2019.