

SENATE No. 765

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Diana DiZoglio

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 urgent care centers.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Diana DiZoglio

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

First Essex

SENATE No. 765

By Ms. DiZoglio, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 765) of Diana DiZoglio for legislation to increase access to urgent care centers. Health Care Financing.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. 682 OF 2019-2020.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act to increase access to urgent care centers.

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 118E of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
2 section 17A the following new section:-

3 Section 17B. (a) As used in this section, the following words shall have the following
4 meanings:

5 “Beneficiary”, a recipient of medical assistance or medical benefits pursuant to this
6 chapter who is treated for urgent care services.

7 “Urgent Care”, medical services that are not primary care, and are needed to treat a
8 medical condition that is not a life-threatening, emergency medical condition.

9 (b) Any program of medical assistance or medical benefits for which the division is the
10 primary payor shall cover urgent care services provided to a beneficiary by a licensed urgent care
11 facility for medical conditions that are not emergency medical conditions. Such urgent care
12 services may be provided without prior authorization from a beneficiary's primary care provider.
13 The division or its designee may require a beneficiary to contact the division or its designee or
14 the primary care provider of the beneficiary within 48 hours of receiving such urgent care
15 services, but notification already given to said division, designee, or primary care provider by the
16 attending physician shall satisfy the requirements of this subsection.

17 (c) Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit retrospective utilization review
18 activities by the division or its designee with respect to services provided for the purposes of
19 assessing quality, utilization patterns and coding and billing practices, but such activities shall
20 not result in retroactive changes to treatment or reimbursement decisions previously made in
21 accordance with this section. In conducting said utilization review activities, the division or its
22 designee shall comply with section 12 of chapter 176O and all applicable state and federal
23 confidentiality provisions. No beneficiary shall be denied coverage for medical expenses
24 incurred as a result of using such urgent care service.