

HOUSE No. 1225

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Michael F. Kane

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 passage of the accompanying:

An Act concerning Medicaid and Accountable Care.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Michael F. Kane

5th Hampden

James T. Welch

[District]

HOUSE No. 1225

By Mr. Kane of Holyoke, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1225) of Michael F. Kane and James T. Welch relative to Medicaid and Accountable Care. Health Care Financing.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

An Act concerning Medicaid and Accountable Care.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 BE IT ENACTED:

2 1. a. The Office of Medicaid and the Executive Office of Health and Human Services
3 (EOHHS) shall establish a three-year Medicaid urban-area accountable care organization (ACO)
4 demonstration project as provided in this act. Urban ACOs approved for participation in the
5 demonstration project shall be non-profit organizations formed through the voluntary
6 participation of local hospitals, clinics, health centers, primary care physicians, nurses, and
7 public health agencies for the purpose of improving the quality, capacity, and accessibility of the
8 local health care system for Medicaid beneficiaries residing in the region. Payments for services
9 reimbursed by the Medicaid fee-for-service program to providers participating in an approved
10 urban ACO demonstration-project shall be made to the urban ACO and distributed to the
11 participating providers in accordance with a written plan approved by the Office of Medicaid and
12 EOHHS. The urban ACO demonstration project shall be developed in consultation with
13 managed care organizations and other vendors that contract with the Medicaid program to
14 provide health care services to Medicaid beneficiaries.

15 b. In developing the written plan for distributing payments for services rendered to
16 Medicaid patients by participating urban ACO demonstration project providers, the Office of
17 Medicaid and EOHHS, shall consider payment methodologies that promote care-coordination
18 through multi-disciplinary teams, including payment for care of patients with chronic diseases
19 and the elderly, and that encourage services such as: (i) patient or family education for patients
20 with chronic diseases; (ii) home-based services; (iii) telephonic communication; (iv) group care;
21 and (v) culturally and linguistically appropriate care. In addition, the payment system shall be
22 structured to reward quality and improved patient outcomes, particularly for high cost, high
23 needs patients. The payment system may not increase costs to Medicaid for patients served by
24 an ACO demonstration project beyond the benchmark cost of care for those patients if they were
25 not served by an ACO.

26 c. Nothing in this act shall be construed to limit the choice of a Medicaid beneficiary to
27 access care for family planning services or any other type of healthcare services from a qualified
28 health care provider who is not participating in the urban ACO demonstration project.

29 d. The Office of Medicaid and EOHHS shall begin implementing the urban ACO
30 demonstration project no later than July 1, 2011.

31 e. The Office of Medicaid and EOHHS may certify up to five urban ACOs for
32 participation in shared savings programs that promote accountability for patient populations
33 residing in a designated urban area. Each such shared savings program will be operated as an
34 urban ACO demonstration project designed to coordinate the provision of health care items and
35 services paid for by Medicaid; to encourage investment in infrastructure and redesigned care
36 processes for high quality and efficient service delivery; and facilitate the development of
37 medical homes.

38 f. The Office of Medicaid and EOHHS shall certify the urban ACO for participation
39 in the urban ACO demonstration project following its determination that the urban ACO meets
40 the requirements of this act and is designed to improve quality, cost, and access to health care by
41 Medicaid beneficiaries. Urban ACO demonstration project applicants must agree to be
42 accountable for the quality, cost, and overall access to care of the Medicaid beneficiaries residing
43 in the designated urban area for a period of no less than three years. For purposes of this act,
44 “designated urban area” shall mean a municipality or defined geographic area in which no fewer
45 than 5,000 Medicaid beneficiaries reside, or other threshold that the Office of Medicaid and
46 EOHHS determine to be sufficient for reliable measurement of realized savings. EOHHS, in
47 consultation with the Office of Medicaid, shall adopt regulations establishing additional criteria
48 required for participation in the urban ACO demonstration project.

49 g. An urban ACO demonstration project applicant must demonstrate that it is a non-
50 profit entity that has established a mechanism for shared governance. The urban ACO must have
51 a formal legal structure that allows the urban ACO to receive payments from Medicaid and any
52 voluntarily participating Medicaid managed care organizations and distributes payments for
53 quality improvement and for shared savings to participating ACO providers. Before receiving
54 payments, the urban ACO must submit a written demonstration project application for review
55 and approval by the Office of Medicaid and EOHHS on how the payments will be used to
56 improve quality, expand access, and reduce cost for patients living in geographic region of the
57 ACO.

58 h. The Medicaid fee-for-service program shall remit payment to the participating
59 urban ACO after approval by the Office of Medicaid and EOHHS of the ACO’s written
60 demonstration project application for use of the funds and determination of the shared savings
61 payment and approved by the Office of Medicaid and EOHHS using the methodology developed
62 under Section 1(b) above.

63 i. The benchmark, against which savings are measured for each urban ACO, once
64 established, may only be changed once every three years. A portion of realized shared savings
65 from the urban ACOs may be used to offset increased health care expenditures by the
66 Commonwealth of Massachusetts and support the continued operation of this urban ACO
67 demonstration project. The percentage of shared savings to be (i) distributed to the urban ACO;
68 (ii) kept by a participating Medicaid managed care organization or other third party payer; and
69 (iii) kept by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to support the administration of the program
70 shall be determined at the start of the demonstration project and every three years.

71 j. The percentage-of shared savings to be distributed or kept as described herein
72 shall be configured to: (i) ensure widespread participation by both urban communities and
73 payers; (ii) ensure that the Commonwealth of Massachusetts realizes meaningful savings; and
74 (iii) ensure that the demonstration project's annual administrative costs can be covered by year
75 three.

76 k. As used in this act:

77 "Primary care provider" includes, but is not limited to, a primary care physician, a
78 registered nurse, a primary care professional medical practice, a federally qualified or
79 community health center, and a primary care outpatient clinic operated by a general hospital.

80 2. The Office of Medicaid shall, with assistance from EOHHS, evaluate the urban ACO
81 demonstration project annually to assess: whether cost savings are achieved through
82 implementation of the urban ACO demonstration project; the rates of health screening; the
83 outcomes and hospitalization rates for persons with chronic illnesses, and the hospitalization and
84 readmission rates for the frail elderly.

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86 3. The Secretary of EOHHS shall apply for such State plan amendments or waivers as
87 may be necessary to implement the provisions of this act and to secure federal financial
88 participation for State Medicaid expenditures under the federal Medicaid program. The
89 Secretary of EOHHS may apply for participation in federal ACO demonstration projects that
90 align with the goals of this act.

91 4. The Secretary of EOHHS shall report annually to the Governor, and to the
92 Legislature, on the findings and recommendations of the urban ACO demonstration project.
93 After three years, if the Secretary of EOHHS finds the urban ACO demonstration project was
94 successful in reducing cost and improving the quality of care for Medicaid beneficiaries, the
95 urban ACO demonstration project may be expanded to include additional underserved
96 communities and shall become a permanent program.

97 5. The Secretary of EOHHS shall adopt such rules and regulations as the commissioners
98 deem necessary to carry out the provisions of this act.

99 6. This act shall take effect upon enactment and shall expire three years after the
100 effective date, but the Director of the Office of Medicaid and the Secretary of EOHHS may take
101 such anticipatory administrative action in advance thereof as shall be necessary for the
102 implementation of this act.