SENATE DOCKET, NO. 1067 FILED ON: 1/17/2013

SENATE . . . . . No. 530

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Mark C. Montigny

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 Relative to Full Application of Telemedicine Coverage.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Mark C. Montigny	*Second Bristol and Plymouth*
Daniel B. Winslow	*9th Norfolk*
Denise Andrews	*2nd Franklin*

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SENATE . . . . . No. 530

By Mr. Montigny, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 530) of Mark C. Montigny, Daniel B. Winslow and Denise Andrews for legislation to fully apply telemedicine coverage. Health Care Financing.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

An Act Relative to Full Application of Telemedicine Coverage.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 32A of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 17J, the following section:—

Section 17K. (a) For the purposes of this section, “telemedicine“ as it pertains to the delivery of health care services, shall mean the use of interactive audio, video or other electronic media for the purpose of diagnosis, consultation or treatment. “Telemedicine” shall not include the use of audio-only telephone, facsimile machine or e-mail.

(b) An insurer may limit coverage of telemedicine services to those health care providers in a telemedicine network approved by the insurer.

(c) A contract that provides coverage for services under this section may contain a provision for a deductible, copayment or coinsurance requirement for a health care service provided through telemedicine as long as the deductible, copayment or coinsurance does not exceed the deductible, copayment or coinsurance applicable to an in-person consultation.

(d) Coverage for health care services under this section shall be consistent with coverage for health care services provided through in-person consultation.

SECTION 2. Chapter 118E of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 10G the following section:—

Section 10H. (a) For the purposes of this section, “telemedicine“ as it pertains to the delivery of health care services, shall mean the use of interactive audio, video or other electronic media for the purpose of diagnosis, consultation or treatment. “Telemedicine” shall not include the use of audio-only telephone, facsimile machine or e-mail.

21 (b) MassHealth may limit coverage of telemedicine services to those health care
22 providers in a telemedicine network approved by the MassHealth.

23 (c) A contract that provides coverage for services under this section may contain a
24 provision for a deductible, copayment or coinsurance requirement for a health care service
25 provided through telemedicine as long as the deductible, copayment or coinsurance does not
26 exceed the deductible, copayment or coinsurance applicable to an in-person consultation.

27 (d) Coverage for health care services under this section shall be consistent with coverage
28 for health care services provided through in-person consultation.

29 SECTION 3. Chapter 176A of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
30 section 8EE the following section:—

31 Section 8FF. (a) For the purposes of this section, "telemedicine" as it pertains to the
32 delivery of health care services, shall mean the use of interactive audio, video or other electronic
33 media for the purpose of diagnosis, consultation or treatment. "Telemedicine" shall not include
34 the use of audio-only telephone, facsimile machine or e-mail.

35 (b) An insurer may limit coverage of telemedicine services to those health care providers
36 in a telemedicine network approved by the insurer.

37 (c) A contract that provides coverage for services under this section may contain a
38 provision for a deductible, copayment or coinsurance requirement for a health care service
39 provided through telemedicine as long as the deductible, copayment or coinsurance does not
40 exceed the deductible, copayment or coinsurance applicable to an in-person consultation.

41 (d) Coverage for health care services under this section shall be consistent with coverage
42 for health care services provided through in-person consultation.

43 SECTION 4. Chapter 176B of the General Laws, is hereby amended by inserting after
44 section 4EE the following section:—

45 Section 4FF. (a) For the purposes of this section, "telemedicine" as it pertains to the
46 delivery of health care services, shall mean the use of interactive audio, video or other electronic
47 media for the purpose of diagnosis, consultation or treatment. "Telemedicine" shall not include
48 the use of audio-only telephone, facsimile machine or e-mail.

49 (b) An insurer may limit coverage of telemedicine services to those health care providers
50 in a telemedicine network approved by the insurer.

51 (c) A contract that provides coverage for services under this section may contain a
52 provision for a deductible, copayment or coinsurance requirement for a health care service
53 provided through telemedicine as long as the deductible, copayment or coinsurance does not
54 exceed the deductible, copayment or coinsurance applicable to an in-person consultation.

55 (d) Coverage for health care services under this section shall be consistent with coverage
56 for health care services provided through in-person consultation.

57 SECTION 5. Chapter 176G of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
58 section 4W the following:—

59 Section 4X. (a) For the purposes of this section, "telemedicine" as it pertains to the
60 delivery of health care services, shall mean the use of interactive audio, video or other electronic
61 media for the purpose of diagnosis, consultation or treatment. "Telemedicine" shall not include
62 the use of audio-only telephone, facsimile machine or e-mail.

63 (b) An insurer may limit coverage of telemedicine services to those health care providers
64 in a telemedicine network approved by the insurer.

65 (c) A contract that provides coverage for services under this section may contain a
66 provision for a deductible, copayment or coinsurance requirement for a health care service
67 provided through telemedicine as long as the deductible, copayment or coinsurance does not
68 exceed the deductible, copayment or coinsurance applicable to an in-person consultation.

69 (d) Coverage for health care services under this section shall be consistent with coverage
70 for health care services provided through in-person consultation.

71 SECTION 6. Chapter 176I of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
72 section 12 the following new section:—

73 Section 13. (a) For the purposes of this section, "telemedicine" as it pertains to the
74 delivery of health care services, shall mean the use of interactive audio, video or other electronic
75 media for the purpose of diagnosis, consultation or treatment. "Telemedicine" shall not include
76 the use of audio-only telephone, facsimile machine or e-mail.

77 (b) An insurer may limit coverage of telemedicine services to those health care providers
78 in a telemedicine network approved by the insurer.

79 (c) A contract that provides coverage for services under this section may contain a
80 provision for a deductible, copayment or coinsurance requirement for a health care service
81 provided through telemedicine as long as the deductible, copayment or coinsurance does not
82 exceed the deductible, copayment or coinsurance applicable to an in-person consultation.

83 (d) Coverage for health care services under this section shall be consistent with coverage
84 for health care services provided through in-person consultation.