SENATE DOCKET, NO. 386 FILED ON: 1/19/2011

SENATE . . . . . No. 69

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Steven A. Tolman

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 providing for insurance coverage for vision screening for children..

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Steven A. Tolman	☐ *[District]* ☐
Sean Garballey	*23rd Middlesex*

SENATE DOCKET, NO. 386 FILED ON: 1/19/2011

SENATE . . . . . No. 69

By Mr. Tolman, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 69) of Steven A. Tolman and Sean Garballey for legislation to provide for insurance coverage for vision screening for children . Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE
SENATE
, NO. *80* OF 2009-2010.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

An Act providing for insurance coverage for vision screening for children..

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 17H the following section:

Section 17I. The commission shall provide to any active or retired employee of the commonwealth who is insured under the group insurance commission coverage for the cost of a vision screening for children conducted within 12 months prior to entering kindergarten, pursuant to the first paragraph of section 57 of Chapter 71, as most recently amended by Chapter 181 of the Acts of 2004. The vision screening shall be conducted by personnel approved by the department of public health and trained in vision screening techniques developed by the department of public health in consultation with the department of education.

For children who fail to pass the vision screening and for children diagnosed with neurodevelopmental delay, the commission shall provide coverage of a comprehensive eye examination performed by a licensed optometrist or ophthalmologist chosen by the child's parent or guardian indicating any pertinent diagnosis, treatment, prognosis, recommendation and evidence of follow-up treatment, if necessary.

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

17 Section 10B. The division shall provide coverage for the cost of a vision
18 screening for children conducted within 12 months prior to entering kindergarten, pursuant to the
19 first paragraph of section 57 of Chapter 71, as most recently amended by Chapter 181 of the Acts
20 of 2004. The vision screening shall be conducted by personnel approved by the department of
21 public health and trained in vision screening techniques developed by the department of public
22 health in consultation with the department of education.

23 For children who fail to pass the vision screening and for children diagnosed
24 with neurodevelopmental delay, the division shall provide coverage of a comprehensive eye
25 examination performed by a licensed optometrist or ophthalmologist chosen by the child's parent
26 or guardian indicating any pertinent diagnosis, treatment, prognosis, recommendation and
27 evidence of follow-up treatment, if necessary.

28 SECTION 3. Chapter 175 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting
29 after section 110l the following section:

30 Section 11OM. Any policy, contract, agreement, plan, or certificate of
31 insurance issued, delivered, or renewed within the Commonwealth shall cover a vision screening
32 for children conducted within 12 months prior to entering kindergarten, pursuant to the first
33 paragraph of section 57 of Chapter 71, as most recently amended by Chapter 181 of the Acts of
34 2004. The vision screening shall be conducted by personnel approved by the department of
35 public health and trained in vision screening techniques developed by the department of public
36 health in consultation with the department of education.

37 For children who fail to pass the vision screening and for children diagnosed with
38 neurodevelopmental delay, coverage shall be provided for a comprehensive eye examination
39 performed by a licensed optometrist or ophthalmologist chosen by the child's parent or guardian
40 indicating any pertinent diagnosis, treatment, prognosis, recommendation and evidence of
41 follow-up treatment, if necessary.

42 SECTION 4. Chapter 176A of the General Laws is hereby further amended by
43 inserting after section 8V the following section:-

44 Section 8W. Any policy, contract, agreement, plan, or certificate of insurance
45 issued, delivered, or renewed within the Commonwealth shall cover a vision screening for
46 children conducted within 12 months prior to entering kindergarten, pursuant to the first
47 paragraph of section 57 of Chapter 71, as most recently amended by Chapter 181 of the Acts of
48 2004. The vision screening shall be conducted by personnel approved by the department of
49 public health and trained in vision screening techniques developed by the department of public
50 health in consultation with the department of education.

51 For children who fail to pass the vision screening and for children diagnosed with
52 neurodevelopmental delay, coverage shall be provided for a comprehensive eye examination

53 performed by a licensed optometrist or ophthalmologist chosen by the child's parent or guardian
54 indicating any pertinent diagnosis, treatment, prognosis, recommendation and evidence of
55 follow-up treatment, if necessary.

56 SECTION 5. Chapter 176B of the General Laws is hereby amended by
57 inserting after section 4V the following section:-

58 Section 4W. Any policy, contract, agreement, plan, or certificate of insurance
59 issued, delivered, or renewed within the Commonwealth shall cover a vision screening for
60 children conducted within 12 months prior to entering kindergarten, pursuant to the first
61 paragraph of section 57 of Chapter 71, as most recently amended by Chapter 181 of the Acts of
62 2004. The vision screening shall be conducted by personnel approved by the department of
63 public health and trained in vision screening techniques developed by the department of public
64 health in consultation with the department of education.

65 For children who fail to pass the vision screening and for children diagnosed with
66 neurodevelopmental delay, coverage shall be provided for a comprehensive eye examination
67 performed by a licensed optometrist or ophthalmologist chosen by the child's parent or guardian
68 indicating any pertinent diagnosis, treatment, prognosis, recommendation and evidence of
69 follow-up treatment, if necessary.

70 SECTION 6. Chapter 176G of the General Laws is hereby amended by
71 inserting after section 4N the following section:-

72 Section 4O. Any policy, contract, agreement, plan, or certificate of insurance
73 issued, delivered, or renewed within the Commonwealth shall cover a vision screening for
74 children conducted within 12 months prior to entering kindergarten, pursuant to the first
75 paragraph of section 57 of Chapter 71, as most recently amended by Chapter 181 of the Acts of
76 2004. The vision screening shall be conducted by personnel approved by the department of
77 public health and trained in vision screening techniques developed by the department of public
78 health in consultation with the department of education.

79 For children who fail to pass the vision screening and for children diagnosed with
80 neurodevelopmental delay, coverage shall be provided for a comprehensive eye examination
81 performed by a licensed optometrist or ophthalmologist chosen by the child's parent or guardian
82 indicating any pertinent diagnosis, treatment, prognosis, recommendation and evidence of
83 follow-up treatment, if necessary.