

SENATE No. 475

By Mr. Bertonazzi, a petition (accompanied by resolve, Senate, No. 475) of Louis P. Bertonazzi and Theodore J. Aleixo, Jr., that provision be made for an investigation and study by a special commission (including members of the General Court) relative to the impact of extended health insurance coverage on the health care delivery system. Health Care.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Eighty-two.

RESOLVE PROVIDING FOR AN INVESTIGATION AND STUDY BY A SPECIAL COMMISSION RELATIVE TO THE IMPACT OF EXTENDED HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE ON THE HEALTH CARE DELIVERY SYSTEM.

1 *Resolved*, That a special commission, to consist of three
2 members of the senate, four members of the house of repre-
3 sentatives with minority party representation, the commis-
4 sioner of insurance, or his designee, the chairman of the Rate
5 Setting Commission, or his designee, the executive secretary
6 of the Group Insurance Commission, and nine persons to be
7 appointed by the governor, three of whom shall be repre-
8 sentatives of insurance companies which offer group health
9 insurance plans, one of whom is a hospital administrator in
10 Massachusetts, one of whom is a physician licensed to prac-
11 tice in Massachusetts, one of whom is a member of the Health
12 Systems Agency, one of whom is a member of the Statewide
13 Health Coordinating Council, and two of whom shall be rep-
14 resentatives of recognized consumer groups, is hereby estab-
15 lished for the purpose of making an investigation and study
16 of the impact of extended health insurance coverage on the
17 health care delivery system.

18 Said commission shall, in the course of its investigation
19 and study, consider, among other questions it deems relevant,
20 the relative merits or disadvantages of inclusion of outpatient
21 services as the subject of benefits of group health insurance
22 plans; the effect of such inclusion on the pattern of insurers'
23 health care services utilization — whether inpatient services

24 are reduced as outpatient services are increased and the rela-
25 tive cost of this extended coverage; the effect of such cover-
26 age on rising hospital costs; whether and to what extent the
27 emergence of health maintenance organizations as major
28 health delivery resources have impacted on the need for ex-
29 tended coverage; whether and in what manner the inclusion
30 of outpatient services in health insurance plan benefits re-
31 sults in more frequent contact with medical services and so
32 contributes to preventive health measures.

33 The commission may expend for expenses and for legal, re-
34 search, clinical and other assistance such sums as may be ap-
35 propriated.

36 Said commission shall meet and may report from time to
37 time its findings and recommendations to the general court
38 together with drafts of legislation necessary to carry its re-
39 commendations into effect, and shall file its annual report no
40 later than the last Wednesday in December.