

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 5170**

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*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, May 15, 2000.

The committee on Ways and Means, to whom was referred the Bill to provide that certain health care plans and policies shall cover payment for costs arising from speech, hearing and language disorders (House, No. 1965), reports that the same ought to pass with an amendment substituting therefor the accompanying bill (House, No. 5170).

For the committee,

PAUL R. HALEY.

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand.

AN ACT TO PROVIDE THAT CERTAIN HEALTH CARE PLANS AND POLICIES SHALL COVER PAYMENT FOR COSTS ARISING FROM SPEECH, HEARING AND LANGUAGE DISORDERS.

*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 32A of the General Laws, as appearing in  
2 the 1998 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after  
3 section 21 the following section:—

4 Section 22. The commission shall provide to any active or  
5 retired employee of the commonwealth who is insured by the  
6 commission coverage for expenses incurred in the medically nec-  
7 essary diagnosis and treatment of speech, hearing and language  
8 disorders by individuals licensed as speech-language pathologists  
9 or audiologists under the provisions of chapter 112; provided, that  
10 such services are rendered within the lawful scope of practice for  
11 such speech-language pathologists or audiologists regardless of  
12 whether the services are provided in a hospital, clinic or private  
13 office; and provided further that such coverage shall not extend to  
14 the diagnosis or treatment of speech, hearing and language disor-  
15 ders in a school-based setting. The coverage provided pursuant to  
16 this section shall be subject to the same terms and conditions  
17 established for any other medical condition covered by the com-  
18 mission.

1 SECTION 2. Chapter 175 of the General Laws, as appearing in  
2 the 1998 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after  
3 section 47T the following section:—

4 Section 47U. Any individual policy of accident and sickness  
5 insurance issued pursuant to section 108 which provides hospital  
6 expense and surgical expense insurance and any group blanket  
7 policy of accident and sickness insurance issued pursuant to  
8 section 110 which provides hospital expense and surgical expense  
9 insurance, delivered, issued or renewed by agreement between the

10 insurer and the policyholder, within or without the common-  
11 wealth, shall provide benefits for residents of the commonwealth  
12 and all group members having a principal place of employment  
13 within the commonwealth for the expenses incurred in the med-  
14 ically necessary diagnosis and treatment of speech, hearing and  
15 language disorders by individuals licensed as speech-language  
16 pathologists or audiologists under the provisions of chapter 112;  
17 provided, that such services are rendered within the lawful scope  
18 of practice for such speech-language pathologists or audiologists  
19 regardless of whether the services are provided in a hospital,  
20 clinic or private office; and provided further, that such coverage  
21 shall not extend to the diagnosis or treatment of speech, hearing  
22 and language disorders in a school-based setting. The benefits  
23 provided pursuant to this section shall be subject to the same  
24 terms and conditions established for any other medical condition  
25 covered by said individual or group blanket policy.

1 SECTION 3. Chapter 176A of the General Laws, as appearing  
2 in the 1998 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after  
3 section 8T the following section:—

4 Section 8U. Any contract between a subscriber and the corpora-  
5 tion under an individual or group hospital service plan which pro-  
6 vides hospital expense and surgical expense insurance, delivered,  
7 issued or renewed by agreement between the insurer and the poli-  
8 cyholder, within or without the commonwealth, shall provide ben-  
9 efits for residents of the commonwealth and all group members  
10 having a principal place of employment within the commonwealth  
11 for the expenses incurred in the medically necessary diagnosis and  
12 treatment of speech, hearing and language disorders by individ-  
13 uals licensed as speech-language pathologists or audiologists  
14 under the provisions of chapter 112; provided, that such services  
15 are within the lawful scope of practice for such speech-language  
16 pathologists or audiologists regardless of whether the services are  
17 provided in a hospital, clinic or private office; and provided fur-  
18 ther, that such coverage shall not extend to the diagnosis or treat-  
19 ment of speech, hearing and language disorders in a school-based  
20 setting. The benefits provided pursuant to this section shall be  
21 subject to the same terms and conditions established for any other  
22 medical condition covered by said individual or group hospital  
23 service plan.

1 SECTION 4. Chapter 176B of the General Laws, as so  
2 appearing in the 1998 Official Edition, is amended by inserting  
3 after section 4R the following section:—

4 Section 4S. Any subscription certificate under an individual or  
5 group medical service agreement which provides hospital expense  
6 and surgical expense insurance, delivered, issued or renewed by  
7 agreement between the insurer and the policyholder, within or  
8 without the commonwealth, shall provide benefits for residents of  
9 the commonwealth and to all group members having a principal  
10 place of employment within the commonwealth for the expenses  
11 incurred in the medically necessary, diagnosis and treatment of  
12 speech, hearing and language disorders by individuals licensed as  
13 speech-language pathologists or audiologists under the provisions  
14 of chapter 112; provided, that such services are rendered within  
15 the lawful scope of practice for such speech-language pathologists  
16 or audiologists regardless of whether the services are provided in  
17 a hospital, clinic or private office; and provided further, that such  
18 coverage shall not extend to the diagnosis or treatment of speech,  
19 hearing and language disorders in a school-based setting. The ben-  
20 efits provided pursuant to this section shall be subject to the same  
21 terms and conditions established for any other medical condition  
22 covered by said individual or group medical service agreement.

1 SECTION 5. Chapter 176G, as appearing in the 1998 Official  
2 Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after section 4J the  
3 following section:—

4 Section 4K. Any individual or group health maintenance con-  
5 tract which provides hospital expense and surgical expense insur-  
6 ance, delivered, issued or renewed by agreement between the  
7 insurer and: the policyholder, within or without the common-  
8 wealth, shall provide benefits for residents of the commonwealth  
9 and to all group members having a principal place of employment  
10 within the commonwealth for the expenses incurred in the med-  
11 ically necessary diagnosis and treatment of speech, hearing and  
12 language disorders by individuals licensed as speech-language  
13 pathologists or audiologists under the provisions of chapter 112;  
14 provided, that such services are rendered within the lawful scope  
15 of practice for such speech-language pathologists or audiologists  
16 regardless of whether the services are provided in a hospital,  
17 clinic or a private office; and provided further, that such coverage

18 shall not extend to the diagnosis or treatment of speech, hearing  
19 and language disorders in a school-based setting. The benefits  
20 provide pursuant to this section shall be subject to the same terms  
21 and conditions established for any other medical condition cov-  
22 ered by said individual or group health maintenance contract.





