

# **An Act Shall Minimize Out-of-Pocket Expenses for Holistic Healthcare for Massachusetts Citizens**

Be it enacted by the People, and by their authority,

## **Section 1: How it will work for Massachusetts Citizens:**

(a) It shall be required that any citizen of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts seeking care for an illness or chronic disease who has a Physician's referral or Physician's written medical report, test, lab work, MRI, or CAT-Scan can as their choice have a Licensed Holistic Practitioner treat his/her illness.

(b) It shall be required and extend coverage by insurers; to include health/medical insurance companies, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Transitional Assistance, Any health/medical insurance company in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, or any company doing business as a health/medical insurance company in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts must provide coverage to Massachusetts citizens for consultations/visits, treatments, and prescribed therapies provided by Licensed Holistic Practitioners.

Coverage shall include:

(c) Licensed Holistic Practitioner service costs, natural supplements, alkaline diet, fruits, vegetables, seeds, nuts and foods prescribed by the professional, tools needed for the prescribed diet plan, written logs.

(d) A citizen seeking services from a Licensed Holistic Practitioner, in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, shall as treatment for an illness or chronic disease be provided with a written treatment plan detailing the process.

(e) A treatment plan shall if needed include any or all of the following: natural supplements, alkaline diet, exercise, diet plan including organic produce, written logs, and other tools. A citizen who qualifies for this coverage with a Licensed Holistic Practitioner, henceforth known as a patient or client, may visit their treating professional's office as many times as deemed necessary by their Licensed Holistic Practitioner.

(f) If a Licensed Holistic Practitioner determines the patient has not followed the treatment plan, he/she shall notify the insurer (insurance company and/or the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Transitional

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Assistance and/or Any health/medical insurance company in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, or any company doing business as a health/medical insurance company in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts) to terminate coverage.

(g) A patient, who has terminated treatment for any reason shall be re-evaluated and complete any application(s) needed for reconsideration by the insurer (insurance company and/or the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Transitional Assistance and/or Any health/medical insurance company in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, or any company doing business as a health/medical insurance company in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts).

(h) The Licensed Holistic Practitioner may order necessary lab work and tests as needed during the coverage.

## **Section 2: Patient's Coverage**

(a) A Licensed Holistic Practitioner shall provide access to coverage for a patient or client through an electronic access, to the insurance company and/or Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA) office and/or any health/medical insurance company in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, or any company doing business as a health/medical insurance company in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

## **Section 3: Funding**

(a) The coverage to a patient shall be funded by the patient's insurance provider and/or the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and/or any health/medical insurance company in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, or any company doing business as a health/medical insurance company in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and/or the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Transitional Assistance.

(b) When a patient meets the requirements of this law, they shall be granted benefits by the insurance company and/or the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA) office and/or any health/medical insurance company in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, or any company doing business as a health/medical insurance company in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

(c) The Licensed Holistic Practitioner in conjunction with the insurers shall determine a patient's maximum amount of money on an EBT card from (DTA) office or Debit card from an insurance company as needed for the

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treatment of the patient's illness or chronic disease each month and all purchases shall be recorded in a written log and dated. A patient shall not receive more than one EBT card or Debit card a month.

(d) Electronic access shall be established between the (DTA) office and/or an insurance company and/or Any health/medical insurance company in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, or any company doing business as a health/medical insurance company in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the Licensed Holistic Practitioner's office. The Massachusetts Governor shall promulgate rules and regulations for the implementation of this act of Electronic Access on or before January 16th, 2022.

#### **Section 4: Patient Coverage Continues**

(a) The coverage shall continue according to the Licensed Holistic Practitioner's treatment plan until a patient has recovered from his/her illness or chronic illness.

(b) The Licensed Holistic Practitioner shall have electronic access only if the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA) office and the Licensed Holistic Practitioner office of business are located in the same county.

#### **Section 5: Fines and Penalties**

(a) The Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts or an Insurance company or Any health/medical insurance company in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, or any company doing business as a health/medical insurance company in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts shall prosecute and potentially fine a person, Licensed Holistic Practitioner for misuse of any applications, EBT cards, Debit Cards, supplements or any other violation of this law.

(b) This shall result in loss of license, loss of EBT cards, Debit cards or a fine that shall not exceed \$5000.00.

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## **Section 6: Reimbursement and Rates**

(a) Additionally, a new Committee shall be established, called the Massachusetts Holistic Reimbursement and Service Rates Committee, they shall be responsible to determine reimbursement and service rates that are fair, ordinary and customary for the services rendered by the Licensed Holistic Practitioners in their practice's geographic area of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts that will be paid by health insurance companies.

(b) This new Committee shall be chosen by the Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in cooperation with the Massachusetts Attorney General, and will be comprised of three Massachusetts Licensed Holistic Practitioners, one Osteopathic Doctor, one Consumer, and two General Counsel Members from the Attorney General's Office assigned by the Massachusetts Attorney General. Holistic Healthcare reimbursement and service rates shall be reviewed and agreed upon annually.

The Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the Attorney General shall have exclusive authority to enforce the provisions of this act.

## **Section 7: Definitions**

(a) Illness - a disease or period of sickness effecting, the body or mind.

(b) Chronic disease - a disease that is persistent, long lasting, or recurrent.

(c) Diet plan - dieting is the practice of ingesting food in a regulated fashion to achieve or maintain a controlled weight and health. Food as medicine being the core building blocks for health & diet modification is about supporting the body's needs for these building blocks when there is a deficiency or therapeutic need.

(d) Alkaline diet - (also known as the alkaline ash diet, alkaline acid diet, acid ash diet, and the acid alkaline diet) describes a group of loosely related diets that claim that different types of food can have an effect on the pH balance of the body.

(e) Tools - shall include, but not be limited to, blender, juicer, wheatgrass juicer, e.g.

(f) Supplements - include vitamins, minerals, herbs, nutrition products, nutritional IV infusion therapy, natural food supplements and other related products used to boost the nutritional content of the diet.

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(g) Lab work - laboratory test/medical test is a kind of medical procedure performed to detect, diagnose or evaluate disease, disease processes, and susceptibility.

(h) MRI - magnetic resonance imaging is a medical test used to produce images of structures in the human body.

(i) CT or CAT-Scan - is an x-ray procedure that generates a cross-sectional view of the internal organs and structures of the human body.

(j) Test - a procedure intended to establish the quality, performance or reliability of something.

(k) Thermography, also called thermal imaging, uses a special camera to measure the temperature of the skin. It is a non-invasive test that involves no radiation.

(l) Debit Card - is a card that allows electronic purchases for foods prescribed by the Licensed Holistic Practitioner treatment plan issued through an insurance company.

(m) EBT card - is a card that allows electronic purchases for foods prescribed by the Licensed Holistic Practitioner through the (DTA) office.

(n) Holistic Practitioner - healing professionals in alternative medicine work to bring balance in the physical, emotional, spiritual and environmental components of a person's life and treatment of the fourteen systems of the human body integratively.

(o) According to the American Holistic Medicine Association, the practice of Holistic healing involves treating the cause of the illness rather than just alleviating symptoms.

(p) The fourteen systems of the human body - Circulatory System, Digestive System, Endocrine System, Excretory System, Fascial System, Immune System, Integument System, Lymphatic System, Meridian System, Muscular System, Nervous System, Reproductive System, Respiratory System, Skeletal System.

(q) Holistic healthcare occupations include: Acupuncture, Aromatherapy/ flower essences, Ayurveda medicine, Bio-feedback, Bodywork, Chelation therapy, Chiropractic, Essential Oils, Guided imagery, Herbology/Herbal remedies, Homeopathy, Hydrotherapy, Hypnosis/self-hypnosis, Iridology, Massage Therapy, Meditation/visualization, Mind, Body, Spirit healing

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(using the unconscious mind), Movement and exercise therapy, Naturopathy, Nutrition therapy, Osteopathy, Reiki/energy medicine, Relaxation response, Reflexology, Therapeutic touch, Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM).

### **Section 8: Licensing of Holistic Practitioners**

This law would also create a new Licensing Board by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Division of Professional Licensure, called the Massachusetts Board of Holistic Practitioners. This new Board will license any Holistic Health Practitioner that can prove through Board Certification, Education, or Years in Practice that they are qualified to be licensed by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The new Board of Holistic Practitioners will also allow for Portfolio Review and/or testing if there is any question with respect to the Practitioner's level of training and professional competence. Any Holistic Practitioner who is not currently licensed because a Licensing Board does not currently exist at the Massachusetts Board of Professional Licensure will be eligible for licensure through this new Massachusetts Board of Holistic Practitioners.


(a) A Holistic Practitioner who is not Massachusetts State Licensed at the time this Holistic legislation is enacted, but falls under a Holistic Healthcare occupation (as defined in Section 7-q), when it becomes law in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts shall become Licensed and follow this statute:

(b) A Massachusetts State Licensed Practitioner before this legislation becomes law, shall follow their laws and regulations as promulgated by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

(c) The Massachusetts Board of Holistic Practitioners shall consist of 13 Board Members appointed by the Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and each Massachusetts State Board shall have an Executive Director with Secretaries and Investigators, as needed. The Massachusetts Board of Holistic Practitioners shall meet monthly.

(d) Grandfathering of Holistic Practitioners in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

(e) A Holistic Practitioner shall be grandfathered in without examination and this process shall continue for Two years. Fee shall be determined by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

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(f) After a Two-Year period of Grandfathering is over, the examinations shall be implemented from a Testing Agency for those wanting a license to practice in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

(g) The Examination shall be reviewed by the Massachusetts Board of Holistic Practitioners and include Board Regulations, Laws and Text Book Information.

(h) A certificate shall be issued by the Massachusetts Board of Holistic Practitioners. After passing a Testing Agency Examination, a number from the State Board Office shall be issued to the new licensee.

(i) The license shall expire in three years and the licensee shall pay a fee to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Massachusetts Board of Holistic Practitioners for a new or renewed license. An Establishment License shall be required in addition to the Practitioners License regardless of whether the business is a Sole-Proprietorship, Partnership or Corporation.

(j) The Following Must Be Submitted for Grandfathering:

(k) An individual shall provide documentation that he/she has worked in his/her Holistic Health Occupation for more than 4 years.


(l) Also, if an individual has obtained any education from a school during or before working in their Holistic Occupation, it could act as a unit of time that could reduce the 4 years required if approved by The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Board of Holistic Health Practitioners.

(m) All licensed Holistic Health Practitioners shall follow all Massachusetts Board of Holistic Practitioners Regulations and State laws in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

(n) Continuing Education Needed to Renew License.

(o) The Holistic Practitioner shall submit a certificate of at least 15 Clock Hours of Continuing Education Credits from an approved Continuing Education Provider before their Massachusetts Board of Holistic Practitioners License will be renewed.

(p) Reciprocity with Other States.

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(q) For Reciprocity, you shall show proof to the Massachusetts Board of Holistic Practitioners during a scheduled monthly hearing that your qualifications meet the standards allowed by the Massachusetts Board of Holistic Practitioners, if allowed or disapproved you will be notified in writing of the Massachusetts Board of Holistic Practitioners decision within 45 days.

(r) If Licensee Over 65 Years of Age Wants to Retain License.

(s) In the case of a person who wishes to hold onto their license after 65 years of age, the Massachusetts Board of Holistic Practitioners shall reduce the fee to 40% of the license fee that is determined by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Division of Professional Licensure, Board of Holistic Practitioners during that period.

(t) When a license expires, and fees.

(u) A license shall expire 3 years after it is issued by the Massachusetts Board of Holistic Practitioners and the fee shall be determined by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

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