

Medicaid Bill Update March 2023

[S.793 An Act establishing a task force on MassHealth reimbursement for schools](#)

Presenter: Filed on 1/20/23 by Senator Susan L. Moran of Plymouth & Barnstable

Status: Referred to Joint Committee on Health Care Financing on 2/16/23

[H.1194 Resolve relative to the reimbursement of school-based care](#)

Presenter: Filed on 1/20/23 by Representative Denise C. Garlick of Dover, Medfield & Needham

Status: Referred to the committee on Health Care Financing on 2/16/23

[S.794 An Act relative to MassHealth reimbursement for schools](#)¹

Presenter: Filed on 1/20/23 by Senator Susan L. Moran of Plymouth & Barnstable

Status: Referred to Joint Committee on Health Care Financing on 2/16/23

S. 793 and H.1194 would direct the executive office of health and human services to establish a MassHealth reimbursement of school-based care **task force** to study and make recommendations about MassHealth reimbursement for direct services and administrative activities, including the taskforce membership, and submission of report by June 31, 2023.

S.794 would require that Local Education Agencies (LEAs), which obtain MassHealth reimbursement for providing school-based services and administrative services, maintain proceeds of MassHealth **reimbursement** to fund school-based services and related administrative services. Proceeds should not supplant existing or planned school health funding.

We support this legislation to return nurse-generated, school-based Medicaid reimbursement funds, directly back to Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) for the following reasons:

- education dollars/LEA budgets funding School Health Service programming are dwindling, and School-based Medicaid monies could provide a revenue stream to support this School Health Services programming;
- all school age children in Massachusetts deserve to be healthy, safe and ready to learn;
- direct nursing services provided to Medicaid-eligible students will support educational achievement;
- every child needs access to a full-time school nurse during the hours they attend school
- *A similar bill (MassHealth reimbursement for school nurses services provided returned to LEAs for school health services) was originally filed in 2016, and again in 2018 and 2020. Each time the bill has moved further; in 2022, the bill made it to the House Ways and Means Committee.*