



Legislation Summary:

An Act establishing improved Medicare for all in Massachusetts

Initial bill number: [H2987](#) (Bill numbers will change as legislation proceeds.)

Sponsors: Rep. Denise C. Garlick

This bill, like S.619, would create a single-payer system for health care in Massachusetts. The bill establishes a Massachusetts Health Care Trust, which will be the single-payer body responsible for the collection and disbursement of funds required to provide health care services for every resident of the Commonwealth. Its 23-member board is to include representatives nominated by health care professionals, labor, senior citizens, single-payer advocates, people with disabilities and caregivers, children's advocates, providers of legal services for people of low-income; eight people elected by the citizens of Massachusetts; and the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Secretary of Administration and Finance, and the Commissioner of Public Health.

The Trust will guarantee health care access to all residents without regard to financial or employment status, ethnicity, race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, previous health problems, or geographic location. The Trust is to provide coverage that is continuous, without the current need for repeated re-enrollments or changes when employers choose new plans and residents change jobs; coverage is to be comprehensive and affordable for individuals and families, with no co-insurance, co-payments or deductibles.

The Health Care Trust is intended to control costs by establishing a global budget; by capital budgeting and limiting duplicative expenditures for construction and major equipment; by negotiating statewide wholesale prices for pharmaceuticals and medical supplies; and by more efficient use of health care facilities. In addition, the new chapter includes provisions regulating the powers of the trust, the establishment of an Executive Director, the organization of the Trust into regional and administrative divisions, establishing eligibility criteria for both participants and health care providers, the enumeration of covered benefits, provisions relative to wraparound coverage for federal health programs, and the establishment of a Health Care Trust Fund to finance the operation with a fairly apportioned, dedicated health care tax on imposed on employers, workers, and citizens.

League Position: An affordable health care system that provides equal access to quality health care for all. *Where We Stand*, p. 47