

**HIGHLIGHTS OF PROPOSED IMMUNIZATION LEGISLATION**  
**An Act Establishing the Massachusetts Childhood Vaccines Program**  
**and the Massachusetts Immunization Registry**

***PART 1: Vaccine Purchase Trust Fund/Insurance Coverage***

**Section 1**

Defines “health insurer” to include traditional health insurers, HMOs, preferred provider organizations, MassHealth, GIC and others.

Defines “routine childhood immunizations” to include recommended immunizations for children until their nineteenth birthday.

**Section 2**

Establishes a Vaccine Purchase Trust Fund to cover the costs of purchasing and distributing vaccines for childhood immunizations and to cover the costs of a Massachusetts Immunization Registry. The Fund is to be maintained by the Commissioner of Insurance and expended at the direction of the Department of Public Health.

A Vaccine Purchase Advisory Council will recommend purchases of vaccine, with advice from the Department.

Each health insurer in the Commonwealth shall contribute annually to the Fund an amount determined by the Commissioner of Insurance, based upon the **percentage** of children who are not eligible for federally purchased vaccines insured by each health insurer and upon the estimated **cost** of routine childhood immunizations with federally purchased vaccines.

The Commissioner of Insurance is to promulgate regulations establishing dates for the annual assessment and contribution, with the initial contribution by July 1, 2010.

**Section 3**

Every health insurer shall provide benefits for routine childhood immunizations for Massachusetts residents (until age 19) and recommended immunizations for Massachusetts residents who are 19 and older (not provided by the state). These benefits are to be exempt from copayment, coinsurance, deductibles, or dollar limits for coverage.

Health insurers shall pay health care providers 100% of the reasonable and customary charges for the administration of such immunizations and to provide such reimbursement to all providers, regardless of setting, even if not participating providers.

***PART 2: Massachusetts Immunization Registry***

Requires the Department to establish a Massachusetts Immunization Registry to record personal immunization histories. Requires providers to report immunization information to the registry. Permits disclosure of immunization data to providers, school nurses, local boards of health, WIC and necessary state agency personnel. The information otherwise shall be protected as confidential.