About MCPAP:
MCPAP is an innovative program designed to address the severe problems families face in getting access to child psychiatric services in Massachusetts. MCPAP provides primary care physicians, pediatricians, and nurse practitioners access to one of six regional teams of child psychiatrists, psychologists and/or social workers, and care coordinators to consult with them in order to diagnose and treat mental health disorders.

In FY 2014 MCPAP assisted 3,051 providers in 461 practices to treat 6,408 patients through 22,620 Encounters.

The program is “insurance blind” and prior to FY 2014 the full cost of the program was borne by the Commonwealth.

Of the children served by MCPAP since 2004, approximately 50-60% in each year were covered by commercial insurance.

Bill Text:
SECTION 1. Chapter 19 of the General Laws is hereby amended by hereby amended by inserting after section 16 the following section:-

Section 16A.

(a) The department shall operate a statewide program to provide remote mental health consultations available for a minimum of 5 days a week, to pediatricians, family physicians, nurse practitioners and primary care practices for persons under the age of 19 who exhibit a possible mental health or substance use disorder and to health care providers of women who are showing signs of post-partum depression.

(b) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the costs of providing this program to commercially insured clients shall be assessed on surcharge payers as defined by section 38 of chapter 118G and shall be collected in a manner consistent with said chapter 118 and DMH regulation

The purpose of the bill:
H.1784 codifies a provision included in the FY 2014 and FY 2015 budgets which equitably distributes the costs of the mental health services provided by MCPAP by requiring that commercial health insurance companies contribute to the funding of MCPAP at a rate equal to the participation of their members.

In FY 2015 reimbursement from insurers is expected to total approximately $1.6 million. These resources are being used to maintain program operations at five days a week, to expand MCPAP’s services to include post-partum depression screening, and to begin to make MCPAP accessible to schools.

The bill makes the commercial insurance assessment an ongoing requirement.