SENATE DOCKET, NO. 191 FILED ON: 1/18/2011

SENATE . . . . . No. 977

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Gale D. Candaras

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the passage of the accompanying:

An Act to examine quality and access to public inpatient behavioral health care in the commonwealth..

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Gale D. Candaras	☐ *[District]* ☐
Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr.	*12th Hampden*
Denise Provost	*27th Middlesex*
Benjamin Swan	*11th Hampden*

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By Ms. Candaras, petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 977) of Swan, Puppolo, Provost and other members of the General Court for legislation to examine quality and access to public inpatient behavorial health care in the commonwealth [Joint Committee on Mental Health and Substance Abuse].

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE
SENATE
, NO. *734* OF 2009-2010.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

An Act to examine quality and access to public inpatient behavioral health care in the commonwealth..

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

Section 1. Notwithstanding the provision of any general or special law to the contrary, the Joint Committee on Mental Health and Substance Abuse shall conduct or commission an independent study of the Department of Mental Health Inpatient Hospital System. Said study shall include, but not be limited to the following:

a) Whether there is sufficient inpatient capacity in the public mental health system to effectively and appropriately meet the needs of individuals suffering from mental illness;

b) Whether patients are receiving timely access to public inpatient mental health facilities;

c) An assessment as to how many individuals on a monthly basis:

a. Have been referred for admission to a public inpatient hospital; or

b. Are pending decision for admission to such hospital; or

13 c. Are approved for admission by the Department to such
14 hospital and are on a waiting list for public inpatient hospital services.

15 This assessment must include a review of the timeliness of the placement of patients into
16 appropriate intermediate care at such hospitals.

17 d) Whether the current process used to determine eligibility for public
18 inpatient hospital services is efficient and whether it is adversely impacting the appropriate
19 utilization of acute inpatient psychiatric beds. Such analysis shall include recommendations for
20 whether and how such determination process could be improved.

21 e) A review of admissions and re-admissions of Department of Mental
22 Health clients into acute inpatient psychiatric hospitals or units;

23 f) Any other issue of relevance or concern to the Committee.

24 Section 2. The entity chosen to conduct the study shall consult with the
25 Executive Office of Human Services, the Department of Mental Health, consumers, and
26 providers. Consultation with providers shall include but not be limited to the Massachusetts
27 Association of Behavioral Health Systems and its member hospitals and institutions. Said study
28 shall be completed within 24 months of passage of the bill and submitted to the Governor, the
29 House and Senate Clerks, the Joint Committee on Mental Health and Substance Abuse and the
30 House and Senate Ways and Means Committees.