

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 1072

---

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

\_\_\_\_\_  
In the Year Two Thousand Nine  
\_\_\_\_\_

An Act ORDERING A STUDY OF HOME HEALTH SERVICE RATE CUTS..

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

1           SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, by no later than  
2   July 31, 2009, the executive office of health and human services shall procure a full review of  
3   the decrease in rate of payment for skilled health services rendered to home health patients that  
4   was effective December 1, 2008. Said study shall analyze: 1. Background data, including cost  
5   analysis that supports the rate cut; 2. The effect of the rate cut on patients receiving care and  
6   agencies that administer that care; 3. The cost and duration for home health visits lasting 60 or  
7   more consecutive days and; 4. The short-term versus long-term cost-effectiveness of this  
8   amendment.

9           SECTION 2 Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, there shall be a  
10   special study commission to review the findings of the report commissioned in Section 1 of this  
11   Act. Said commission shall be comprised of the House and Senate Chairs of the Joint Committee  
12   on Elder Affairs or their designees, the House and Senate Chairs of the Joint Committee on  
13   Health Care Financing or their designees, the Chair for the House Committee on Ways & Means  
14   or their designee, the Senate Chair on Ways & Means or their designee, the Commissioner of the

15 Division of Health Care Finance & Policy or their designee and one representative selected by  
16 each of the following: The Home Care Alliance of Massachusetts and the Massachusetts Chapter  
17 of the American Association of Retired Persons. Further, at least one representative in addition to  
18 the commission members specified in this act will be a visiting nurse from a certified home  
19 health agency.

20 SECTION 3 Said commission shall convene within 10 days after submission of said  
21 study to the Legislature in order to review said findings; and further, shall meet monthly with the  
22 intention of incorporating findings into a recommendation for the Legislature. Said Commission  
23 shall submit said recommendations by no later than October 1st, 2009.