HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 2590 FILED ON: 1/16/2015

HOUSE . . . . . No. 1002

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Bradley H. Jones, Jr.

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 adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to establishing a commission to study ER copayments.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Bradley H. Jones, Jr.	*20th Middlesex*
Bradford R. Hill	*4th Essex*
Elizabeth A. Poirier	*14th Bristol*
Susan Williams Gifford	*2nd Plymouth*
Todd M. Smola	*1st Hampden*
F. Jay Barrows	*1st Bristol*
Shawn Dooley	*9th Norfolk*
Sheila C. Harrington	*1st Middlesex*
Keiko M. Orrall	*12th Bristol*
Kimberly N. Ferguson	*1st Worcester*
Timothy R. Whelan	*1st Barnstable*
Kevin J. Kuros	*8th Worcester*

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By Mr. Jones of North Reading, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1002) of Bradley H. Jones, Jr., and others for an investigation by a special commission (including members of the General Court) relative to copayments for MassHealth members. Health Care Financing.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. *1030* OF 2013-2014.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court
(2015-2016)

An Act relative to establishing a commission to study ER copayments.

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 any general or special law to the contrary, there shall be a special commission to be known as the MassHealth Cost Control Commission to investigate the use of co-payments for MassHealth members with the goal of encouraging the most cost effective use of health care resources. The investigation shall include, but not be limited to, the study of savings that would result from charging a co-payment for the use of emergency care. A copayment for emergency services could serve as an incentive to utilize primary care and discourage the inappropriate use of emergency rooms in non-emergency situations. Inappropriate use of health care resources may be defined as an instance in which an individual seeks care in an emergency room department, but whose medical needs could have been mitigated in a non-ambulatory environment.

11 The commission shall investigate possible cost-savings for the MassHealth program and
12 any positive and negative deterrent effects a co-payment will have on MassHealth members, in
13 encouraging members to use primary care rather than emergency care in non-emergency
14 situations.

15 The MassHealth Cost Control Commission shall consist of 9 members: 1 member who
16 shall be a representative of a major hospital within the commonwealth, appointed by the
17 governor; 1 member who shall be an advocate for MassHealth members, appointed by the
18 director of Medicaid; 1 member who shall be an expert in national health care policy, appointed
19 by the governor; 1 member who shall be a representative of MassHealth, appointed by the
20 director of Medicaid; 1 member who shall be a taxpayer's advocate, appointed by the Governor;
21 1 member of the senate, appointed by the senate president; 1 member of the senate, appointed by
22 the senate minority leader; 1 member of the house of representatives, appointed by the speaker of
23 the house; and 1 member of the house of representatives, appointed by the house minority leader.

24 The Commission shall submit its report and findings, along with any draft of legislation,
25 to the house and senate committees on ways and means, the joint committee on health care
26 financing, and the clerks of the house of representatives and the senate within 90 days of the
27 passage of this act.