SENATE DOCKET, NO. 520 FILED ON: 1/15/2015

SENATE . . . . . No. 1051

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Marc R. Pacheco

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 creating a pilot program to transfer high acuity behavioral health and dual diagnosis patients away from overcrowded emergency departments.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Marc R. Pacheco	*First Plymouth and Bristol*
James J. O'Day	*14th Worcester*
Tricia Farley-Bouvier	*3rd Berkshire*
Mary S. Keefe	*15th Worcester*
Barbara A. L'Italien	*Second Essex and Middlesex*
Keiko M. Orrall	*12th Bristol*
Chris Walsh	*6th Middlesex*

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By Mr. Pacheco, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1051) of Marc R. Pacheco, James J. O'Day, Tricia Farley-Bouvier, Mary S. Keefe and other members of the General Court for legislation relative to creating a pilot program to transfer high acuity behavioral health and dual diagnosis patients away from overcrowded emergency departments. Mental Health and Substance Abuse.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to creating a pilot program to transfer high acuity behavioral health and dual diagnosis patients away from overcrowded emergency departments.

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

There shall be, on the campus of Taunton State Hospital, a Behavioral Health Emergency Department Relief Pilot Program to accept medically stable, high acuity behavioral health and dual diagnosis patients from emergency departments in the Southeast region. Medically stable patients presenting in an Emergency Department with a high acuity behavioral health condition or who have a dual diagnosis should be transferred to this pilot program if another appropriate setting cannot be located within four hours of admission to the emergency department. Patients admitted to the pilot program will be cared for until an appropriate placement is found that meets the patients' needs, which shall be no more than fourteen days following admission to the pilot program. The program shall be operated by the department and staffed by the department's registered nurses, psychiatrists and other staff needed to provide appropriate care, with program protocols and a staffing plan to be developed during the first six months following passage of

12 this legislation by a committee including the department, the Department of Public Health, the
13 National Alliance on Mental Illness, the Massachusetts Nurses Association and the Emergency
14 Nurses Association. For the purposes of this pilot program, Taunton State Hospital shall be
15 allowed to accept patients classified under Section 12 of Chapter 123 of the General Laws. The
16 pilot program shall operate for a period of two years, with a report to be filed by the department
17 with the Joint Committee on Mental Health and Substance Abuse during year two of the
18 program, to evaluate the success of the program in decreasing emergency department
19 overcrowding in the Southeast Region, and the quality of care provided in the program. The
20 report shall be drafted by an independent entity, utilizing data from the department and the local
21 hospitals in the Southeast Region.