

SENATE No. 588

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Linda Dorcena Forry

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 behavioral health services.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Linda Dorcena Forry

First Suffolk

Daniel J. Hunt

13th Suffolk

SENATE No. 588

By Ms. Forry, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 588) of Linda Dorcena Forry and Daniel J. Hunt for legislation relative to behavioral health services. Health Care Financing.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to behavioral health services.

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. Chapter 118E of the general laws is amended by inserting after Section 9F
2 the following section:-

3 Section 9G. The MassHealth program and its contracted managed care organizations and
4 behavioral health subcontractors, as applicable, shall pay for services rendered by participating
5 acute care hospitals to so called boarder patients at no less than 95% of a Medicare inpatient stay.
6 MassHealth shall cause each Medicaid Managed Care organization contracting with MassHealth
7 to adopt such payment policy consistent with this Act. MassHealth shall develop and submit a
8 report regarding such payments by provider to the committee on health care finance not later
9 than twelve months after the passage of this act and shall further submit recommendations for
10 improving coordinated care and placement of such patients. For the purposes of this section, a
11 boarder patient is defined as a patient being held in a hospital emergency department for at least
12 two (2) hours after a physician has made the decision to admit or transfer the patient.