

**SENATE . . . . . No. 588**

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**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**

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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.

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**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.