

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 1064**

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***Patricia A. Haddad***

*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:
<i>Patricia A. Haddad</i>	<i>5th Bristol</i>
<i>Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr.</i>	<i>12th Hampden</i>
<i>Thomas M. Stanley</i>	<i>9th Middlesex</i>
<i>Jack Lewis</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>
<i>Natalie Higgins</i>	<i>4th Worcester</i>
<i>Daniel M. Donahue</i>	<i>16th Worcester</i>
<i>James J. Dwyer</i>	<i>30th Middlesex</i>
<i>Mathew Muratore</i>	<i>1st Plymouth</i>
<i>Diana DiZoglio</i>	<i>14th Essex</i>
<i>James R. Miceli</i>	<i>19th Middlesex</i>
<i>Sarah K. Peake</i>	<i>4th Barnstable</i>
<i>Michael D. Brady</i>	<i>Second Plymouth and Bristol</i>
<i>Marjorie C. Decker</i>	<i>25th Middlesex</i>
<i>Steven Ultrino</i>	<i>33rd Middlesex</i>
<i>Brian M. Ashe</i>	<i>2nd Hampden</i>
<i>Daniel Cullinane</i>	<i>12th Suffolk</i>
<i>Jennifer E. Benson</i>	<i>37th Middlesex</i>

<i>Denise Provost</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>
<i>Chris Walsh</i>	<i>6th Middlesex</i>
<i>Mike Connolly</i>	<i>26th Middlesex</i>
<i>Keiko M. Orrall</i>	<i>12th Bristol</i>
<i>Marc R. Pacheco</i>	<i>First Plymouth and Bristol</i>
<i>Thomas J. Calter</i>	<i>12th Plymouth</i>
<i>Edward F. Coppinger</i>	<i>10th Suffolk</i>
<i>James M. Cantwell</i>	<i>4th Plymouth</i>
<i>Stephan Hay</i>	<i>3rd Worcester</i>
<i>Brendan P. Crighton</i>	<i>Third Essex</i>
<i>Walter F. Timilty</i>	<i>Norfolk, Bristol and Plymouth</i>
<i>Linda Dean Campbell</i>	<i>15th Essex</i>
<i>Patrick M. O'Connor</i>	<i>Plymouth and Norfolk</i>
<i>Kay Khan</i>	<i>11th Middlesex</i>
<i>Denise C. Garlick</i>	<i>13th Norfolk</i>
<i>John C. Velis</i>	<i>4th Hampden</i>
<i>Harold P. Naughton, Jr.</i>	<i>12th Worcester</i>
<i>Carlos González</i>	<i>10th Hampden</i>
<i>Michelle M. DuBois</i>	<i>10th Plymouth</i>
<i>Tackey Chan</i>	<i>2nd Norfolk</i>
<i>David Paul Linsky</i>	<i>5th Middlesex</i>
<i>James J. O'Day</i>	<i>14th Worcester</i>
<i>Nick Collins</i>	<i>4th Suffolk</i>
<i>Shaunna L. O'Connell</i>	<i>3rd Bristol</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 1064**

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By Mrs. Haddad of Somerset, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1064) of Patricia A. Haddad and others relative to creating a pilot program to transfer high acuity behavioral health and dual diagnosis patients away from overcrowded emergency departments. Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery.

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**In the One Hundred and Ninetieth General Court  
(2017-2018)**  
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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:*

1 Chapter 19 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2016 Official Edition, is hereby  
2 amended by adding the following sections at the end thereof: -

3 Section XX. For the purposes of this section, the term “dual diagnosis” shall mean a  
4 mental illness and a substance abuse problem occurring simultaneously.

5 There shall be, on the campus of Taunton State Hospital, a Behavioral Health Emergency  
6 Department Relief Pilot Program to accept medically stable, high acuity behavioral health and  
7 dual diagnosis patients from emergency departments in the Southeast region. Medically stable  
8 patients presenting in an Emergency Department with a high acuity behavioral health condition  
9 or who have a dual diagnosis should be transferred to this pilot program if another appropriate  
10 setting cannot be located within four hours of admission to the emergency department. Patients  
11 admitted to the pilot program will be cared for until an appropriate placement is found that meets

12 the patients' needs, which shall be no more than fourteen days following admission to the pilot  
13 program. The program shall be operated by the department and staffed by the department  
14 registered nurses, psychiatrists and other staff as needed to provide appropriate care, with  
15 program protocols and a staffing plan to be developed during the first six months following  
16 passage of this legislation by a committee including the department, the department of public  
17 health, the national alliance on mental illness, the Massachusetts Nurses Association and the  
18 emergency nurses association. For the purposes of this pilot program, Taunton State Hospital  
19 shall be allowed to accept patients classified under Section 12 of Chapter 123 of the General  
20 Laws. The pilot program shall operate for a period of two years, with a report to be filed by the  
21 department with the Joint Committee on Mental Health during year two of the program, to  
22 evaluate the success of the program in decreasing emergency department overcrowding in the  
23 Southeast Region, and the quality of care provided in the program. The report shall be drafted  
24 by an independent entity, utilizing data from the department and the local hospitals in the  
25 Southeast Region.