

SENATE No. 577

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Jason M. Lewis

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 protecting public health and reducing health care costs.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Jason M. Lewis</i>	<i>Fifth Middlesex</i>	
<i>Joanne M. Comerford</i>	<i>Hampshire, Franklin and Worcester</i>	<i>2/17/2021</i>

SENATE No. 577

By Mr. Lewis, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 577) of Jason M. Lewis and Joanne M. Comerford for legislation to protect public health and reduce health care costs. Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. 732 OF 2019-2020.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Second General Court
(2021-2022)**

An Act protecting public health and reducing health care costs.

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 111 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
2 Section 23, the following Section:-

3 Section 23A. (a) The department, in order to protect public health and contain health care
4 costs in the Commonwealth, shall create an assessment tool to quantify the health impacts and
5 costs of emissions associated with grid electricity and delivered fuels, and the benefits of energy
6 conservation, energy efficiency and renewable energy in the Commonwealth.

7 (1) The assessment tool shall separately quantify health impacts and costs of emissions to
8 environmental justice populations, the MassHealth program, community hospitals, the state
9 budget and public health.

10 (2) In creating the assessment tool, the department shall draw upon relevant agency
11 expertise and resources, including but not be limited to, the Center for Health Information and
12 Analysis, the Executive Office of Health and Human Services and its MassHealth program, and
13 the Division of Energy Resources.

14 (3) In the design and operation of its assessment tool the department shall build upon
15 existing health impacts assessment tools and analyses, including but not be limited to the health
16 and health cost impacts used in the US Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Power Plan,
17 and Co-Benefits Risk Assessment, as well as Health Care Without Harm's Healthcare Energy
18 Impact Calculator.

19 (4) The assessment tool created by the department shall incorporate and analyze factors
20 that have an impact on health, including but not be limited to, health impacts and costs due to
21 particulate matter < 2.5 microns, sulfur oxides, nitrogen oxides, carbon, carbon dioxide, and
22 mercury emissions from energy sources.

23 (5) The assessment tool created by the department shall generate a breakdown of how the
24 analyzed factors will impact specific measures of health status, including but not be limited to,
25 health impacts costs and savings from premature death, cardiovascular events or injury, chronic
26 bronchitis, asthma, respiratory symptoms, hospital admissions, restricted activity days, lost
27 school and work days, and developmental/neurological problems, or, as applicable, their avoided
28 impacts and cost savings resulting from energy conservation, energy efficiency and renewable
29 energy in the Commonwealth.

30 (b) The department shall update the tool every 3 years, or as needed, to maintain its
31 accuracy. Beginning not later than 24 months after the effective date of this act, any new or

32 revised policy, regulation, or program of the Commonwealth, or any ruling or adjudication by an
33 agency of the Commonwealth that impacts polluting emissions, especially those for energy,
34 buildings, transportation and waste, shall explicitly factor in the tool's output reflecting the
35 action's health incidents, health costs or avoided impact's savings.

36 SECTION 2. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, not later than
37 12 months after the effective date of this act, the Department of Public Health shall submit the
38 assessment tool, created pursuant to section 23A of chapter 111, and explanatory materials on its
39 use to the Clerks of the Senate and the House, the Secretary of the Executive Office of Health
40 and Human Services, and the Secretary of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental
41 Affairs.