

HOUSE No. 2156

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

William J. Driscoll, Jr.

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 enhancing statewide hospital capacity coordination.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>William J. Driscoll, Jr.</i>	<i>7th Norfolk</i>	<i>1/20/2023</i>

HOUSE No. 2156

By Representative Driscoll of Milton, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2156) of William J. Driscoll, Jr., relative to enhancing statewide hospital capacity coordination. Public Health.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court
(2023-2024)

An Act relative to enhancing statewide hospital capacity coordination.

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. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the department
2 of public health (“the department”) shall create a real-time, statewide, Hospital Capacity
3 Coordination Dashboard. To support these efforts, the department of public health shall
4 collaborate with healthcare providers with clinical, emergency management, and hospital
5 operations expertise and members of the legislature. This dashboard shall be a real-time,
6 electronic tool to, at a minimum, gather, report, and facilitate data related to managing hospital
7 capacity, capability, and available beds in hospitals across the Commonwealth in the event of a
8 public health emergency or other surge in patient need.

9 Said data should ensure and understanding of relevant individual hospital, regional, and
10 statewide bed availability. The department may also include other data points as deemed relevant
11 to the purpose of monitoring local, regional, and statewide hospital capacity and capability,
12 situational awareness, and facilitation of patient load balancing efforts.

13 SECTION 2. The department, the executive office of technology services, and the
14 executive office of health and human services shall provide the staffing and funding for this
15 dashboard and the operational costs for the final Hospital Capacity Coordination Dashboard,
16 subject to future appropriation by the legislature explicitly for this purpose.

17 SECTION 3. Upon completion of the electronic Hospital Capacity Coordination
18 Dashboard tool and any corresponding governance or use guideline documents, a healthcare
19 coalition, representing medical providers broadly, shall assume control of the Dashboard, and
20 manage the operations of this tool, and be given administrative control of the tool, including the
21 data produced for and by the Hospital Capacity Coordination Dashboard.

22 SECTION 4. Within 1 year following the effective date of this act, the department shall
23 complete the electronic tool.