

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 1175**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***Edward F. Coppinger***

*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 the closing of hospital essential services.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Edward F. Coppinger</i>	<i>10th Suffolk</i>	<i>1/11/2023</i>
<i>Christopher Hendricks</i>	<i>11th Bristol</i>	<i>1/25/2023</i>
<i>Peter Capano</i>	<i>11th Essex</i>	<i>1/25/2023</i>
<i>John H. Rogers</i>	<i>12th Norfolk</i>	<i>1/25/2023</i>
<i>Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr.</i>	<i>12th Hampden</i>	<i>1/25/2023</i>
<i>Patricia A. Duffy</i>	<i>5th Hampden</i>	<i>1/25/2023</i>
<i>Daniel J. Ryan</i>	<i>2nd Suffolk</i>	<i>1/25/2023</i>
<i>Josh S. Cutler</i>	<i>6th Plymouth</i>	<i>1/25/2023</i>
<i>Joseph W. McGonagle, Jr.</i>	<i>28th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/25/2023</i>
<i>David Henry Argosky LeBoeuf</i>	<i>17th Worcester</i>	<i>1/25/2023</i>
<i>James C. Arena-DeRosa</i>	<i>8th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/25/2023</i>
<i>Frank A. Moran</i>	<i>17th Essex</i>	<i>1/25/2023</i>
<i>Jeffrey N. Roy</i>	<i>10th Norfolk</i>	<i>1/25/2023</i>
<i>Adam Scanlon</i>	<i>14th Bristol</i>	<i>1/25/2023</i>
<i>Tram T. Nguyen</i>	<i>18th Essex</i>	<i>1/25/2023</i>
<i>Daniel M. Donahue</i>	<i>16th Worcester</i>	<i>1/25/2023</i>
<i>Natalie M. Higgins</i>	<i>4th Worcester</i>	<i>1/25/2023</i>
<i>Steven Ultrino</i>	<i>33rd Middlesex</i>	<i>1/25/2023</i>

<i>Gerard J. Cassidy</i>	<i>9th Plymouth</i>	<i>1/25/2023</i>
<i>Christopher J. Worrell</i>	<i>5th Suffolk</i>	<i>1/25/2023</i>
<i>Lindsay N. Sabadosa</i>	<i>1st Hampshire</i>	<i>1/26/2023</i>
<i>Erika Uyterhoeven</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/26/2023</i>
<i>Carmine Lawrence Gentile</i>	<i>13th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/26/2023</i>
<i>Margaret R. Scarsdale</i>	<i>1st Middlesex</i>	<i>1/26/2023</i>
<i>Kevin G. Honan</i>	<i>17th Suffolk</i>	<i>1/26/2023</i>
<i>Michael P. Kushmerek</i>	<i>3rd Worcester</i>	<i>1/30/2023</i>
<i>Edward R. Philips</i>	<i>8th Norfolk</i>	<i>1/30/2023</i>
<i>Adrienne Pusateri Ramos</i>	<i>14th Essex</i>	<i>1/30/2023</i>
<i>Simon Cataldo</i>	<i>14th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/30/2023</i>
<i>Patrick Joseph Kearney</i>	<i>4th Plymouth</i>	<i>1/30/2023</i>
<i>Jessica Ann Giannino</i>	<i>16th Suffolk</i>	<i>1/30/2023</i>
<i>Manny Cruz</i>	<i>7th Essex</i>	<i>1/30/2023</i>
<i>Meghan K. Kilcoyne</i>	<i>12th Worcester</i>	<i>1/30/2023</i>
<i>Sean Garballey</i>	<i>23rd Middlesex</i>	<i>1/30/2023</i>
<i>Thomas M. Stanley</i>	<i>9th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/30/2023</i>
<i>Rob Consalvo</i>	<i>14th Suffolk</i>	<i>1/30/2023</i>
<i>James K. Hawkins</i>	<i>2nd Bristol</i>	<i>1/30/2023</i>
<i>Michael D. Brady</i>	<i>Second Plymouth and Norfolk</i>	<i>1/30/2023</i>
<i>Kate Donaghue</i>	<i>19th Worcester</i>	<i>1/30/2023</i>
<i>Carol A. Doherty</i>	<i>3rd Bristol</i>	<i>1/30/2023</i>
<i>Brian W. Murray</i>	<i>10th Worcester</i>	<i>1/30/2023</i>
<i>Rita A. Mendes</i>	<i>11th Plymouth</i>	<i>1/30/2023</i>
<i>Ryan M. Hamilton</i>	<i>15th Essex</i>	<i>1/31/2023</i>
<i>Tackey Chan</i>	<i>2nd Norfolk</i>	<i>1/31/2023</i>
<i>Angelo L. D'Emilia</i>	<i>8th Plymouth</i>	<i>2/1/2023</i>
<i>Samantha Montaño</i>	<i>15th Suffolk</i>	<i>2/1/2023</i>
<i>Jennifer Balinsky Armini</i>	<i>8th Essex</i>	<i>2/7/2023</i>
<i>Mary S. Keefe</i>	<i>15th Worcester</i>	<i>2/14/2023</i>
<i>Michelle M. DuBois</i>	<i>10th Plymouth</i>	<i>2/14/2023</i>
<i>Paul McMurtry</i>	<i>11th Norfolk</i>	<i>2/14/2023</i>
<i>Joan Meschino</i>	<i>3rd Plymouth</i>	<i>2/14/2023</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	<i>2/14/2023</i>
<i>Adrian C. Madaro</i>	<i>1st Suffolk</i>	<i>2/14/2023</i>
<i>Colleen M. Garry</i>	<i>36th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/14/2023</i>
<i>Bruce E. Tarr</i>	<i>First Essex and Middlesex</i>	<i>2/22/2023</i>
<i>Denise C. Garlick</i>	<i>13th Norfolk</i>	<i>2/27/2023</i>
<i>Christopher Richard Flanagan</i>	<i>1st Barnstable</i>	<i>2/27/2023</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 1175**

By Representative Coppinger of Boston, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1175) of Edward F. Coppinger and others relative to the closing of hospital essential services. Health Care Financing.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE HOUSE, NO. 1253 OF 2021-2022.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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

An Act relative to the closing of hospital essential 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 111 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2018 Official Edition, is  
2 hereby amended by striking subsection (4) of section 51G and inserting in place thereof the  
3 following section:

4           (4) (a) A hospital shall notify the department of a proposed closure at least one calendar  
5 year in advance of the date of the proposed closure or discontinuance of an essential health  
6 service.

7           (b) At least 30 days prior to notifying the department of the proposed closure or  
8 discontinuance of an essential health service, the hospital shall inform either electronically or in  
9 writing the Department and the following parties of its intent to submit notice: (a) The hospital’s

10 patient and family council; (b) Each staff member of the hospital; (c) Every labor organization  
11 that represents the hospital's workforce during the period of the essential services closure; (d)  
12 The members of the General Court who represent the city or town in which the hospital is  
13 located; and; (e) A representative of the local officials of the city or town in which the hospital is  
14 located. The department shall define essential services according to 105 CMR 130.

15 (c) At least 30 days prior to notifying the department of the proposed closure of an  
16 essential health service, a detailed account of any community engagement and planning which  
17 has occurred prior to such filing, and such other information as the Commissioner may require  
18 shall be presented to the department. With respect to the proposed closure of an essential health  
19 service, the hospital shall also send a copy of the notice that it submits to the Department to the  
20 Health Policy Commission, Office of the Attorney General, Center for Health Information and  
21 Analysis, and Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development as well as each of the  
22 health care coalitions and community groups identified by the hospital in its notice to the  
23 department.

24 d) The hospital proposing the discontinuance shall provide, with their initial notice to the  
25 department, evidence of support or non-opposition to the proposed change from each  
26 municipality to which it provides the service as a health care resource, as determined pursuant to  
27 section 16T of chapter 6A of the General Laws, or, if a statement of non-opposition cannot be  
28 obtained, evidence of having given notice and allowed an opportunity for comment from said  
29 municipalities. Any notice given without meeting the requirements of this paragraph shall not  
30 constitute notice to the department for the purpose of establishing the earliest date on which the  
31 hospital may close or discontinue an essential health service.

32 (e) The department shall, in the event that a hospital proposes to discontinue an essential  
33 health service or services, determine whether any such discontinued services are necessary for  
34 preserving access and health status in the hospital's service area, require the hospital to submit a  
35 plan for assuring access to such necessary services following the hospital's closure of the  
36 service, and assure continuing access to such services in the event that the department determines  
37 that their closure will significantly reduce access to necessary services. This plan shall include  
38 the creation of a community oversight committee comprised of a representative from each  
39 municipality to which the hospital provides the service as a health care resource as well as non-  
40 managerial employees, including registered nurses and ancillary staff, from the hospital, and a  
41 representative from a local interfaith organization to ensure that any plan approved by the  
42 department is followed. The community oversight group shall inform the department in the event  
43 the plan is not executed and followed by the hospital. If the hospital's plan for assuring  
44 continued access to a necessary service relies upon the availability of similar services at another  
45 hospital or health facility with which it does not share common ownership, the department shall  
46 require the hospital to submit with said plan a statement from each other hospital or health  
47 facility listed in the plan, affirming their capacity to provide continued access as described in the  
48 plan. The department shall conduct a public hearing prior to a determination on the closure of  
49 said essential services or of the hospital. No original license shall be granted to establish or  
50 maintain an acute-care hospital, as defined by section 25B, unless the applicant submits a plan, to  
51 be approved by the department, for the provision of community benefits, including the  
52 identification and provision of essential health services. In approving the plan, the department  
53 may take into account the applicants existing commitment to primary and preventive health care  
54 services and community contributions as well as the primary and preventive health care services

55 and community contributions of the predecessor hospital. The department may waive this  
56 requirement, in whole or in part, at the request of the applicant which has provided or at the time  
57 the application is filed, is providing, substantial primary and preventive health care services and  
58 community contributions in its service area.

59 (f) If a hospital executes a plan to discontinue an essential health service, said plan not  
60 having been approved by the department pursuant to this section, the Attorney General shall seek  
61 an injunction to require that the essential health service be maintained for the duration of the  
62 notice period outlined in subsection (a). Additionally, that hospital shall not be eligible to have  
63 an application approved pursuant to section 25C for a period of three years from the date the  
64 service is discontinued, or until the essential health service is restored, or until such time as the  
65 department is satisfied that a plan is in place that, at the time of the discontinuance, would have  
66 met the requirements of paragraph (c).

67 (g) To preserve access to essential services, hospitals shall not close any beds, units or  
68 facilities for the duration of any declared state of emergency pertaining to health care.