

SENATE No. 2355

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Walter F. Timilty

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 ensuring equity in healthcare access for veterans.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Walter F. Timilty</i>	<i>Norfolk, Plymouth and Bristol</i>	
<i>Peter Capano</i>	<i>11th Essex</i>	<i>1/31/2023</i>
<i>Steven George Xiarhos</i>	<i>5th Barnstable</i>	<i>8/25/2023</i>
<i>Rodney M. Elliott</i>	<i>16th Middlesex</i>	<i>8/25/2023</i>

SENATE No. 2355

By Mr. Timilty, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2355) of Walter F. Timilty and Peter Capano for legislation to ensure equity in healthcare access for veterans. Veterans and Federal Affairs.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. 2430 OF 2021-2022.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to ensuring equity in healthcare access for veterans.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 The executive office of health and human services, in conjunction with the department of
2 veterans’ services and the center for health information and analysis, shall conduct a study on
3 veterans’ and their dependents’ access to healthcare providers that are not practicing at facilities
4 of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. For the purposes of this section, “veteran”
5 shall mean a veteran who receives benefits under the TRICARE program, as defined in 10
6 U.S.C. 1072(7).

7 The study shall: (i) identify, after seeking consultation with the United States Department
8 of Veterans Affairs, healthcare providers in the Commonwealth who currently accept TRICARE
9 insurance; (ii) identify geographic location of said healthcare providers; (iii) identify by
10 geographic location transportation barriers to accessing said healthcare providers; (iv) identify

11 said healthcare providers' characteristics, including but not limited to, practice specialty, race,
12 gender, years of experience as a healthcare provider; (v) determine the number of veterans and
13 veteran dependents in the Commonwealth currently seeking care from said healthcare providers;
14 (vi) recommend if number of healthcare providers in the Commonwealth who accept TRICARE
15 insurance must be expanded to improve veterans' and veteran dependents' access to healthcare;
16 (vii) recommend how the department of veterans' services, in conjunction with the United States
17 Department of Veterans Affairs, can increase the number of said providers in the
18 Commonwealth; (viii) recommend department of veterans' services program to inform veteran
19 and veteran dependent population of healthcare providers accepting TRICARE insurance in the
20 Commonwealth.

21 The office shall submit a report on the study to the clerks of the senate and house, the
22 joint committee on veterans and federal affairs, the joint committee on health care financing and
23 the senate and house committees on ways and means not later than December 31, 2023.