

**SENATE . . . . . No. 1268**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***Marc R. Pacheco***

*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 intensive stabilization and treatment units within the Department of Mental Health.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Marc R. Pacheco</i>	<i>Third Bristol and Plymouth</i>	
<i>Adam J. Scanlon</i>	<i>14th Bristol</i>	<i>1/30/2023</i>
<i>Jack Patrick Lewis</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/30/2023</i>
<i>Paul R. Feeney</i>	<i>Bristol and Norfolk</i>	<i>1/30/2023</i>
<i>Michael O. Moore</i>	<i>Second Worcester</i>	<i>2/10/2023</i>
<i>Sal N. DiDomenico</i>	<i>Middlesex and Suffolk</i>	<i>2/10/2023</i>
<i>Carol A. Doherty</i>	<i>3rd Bristol</i>	<i>3/23/2023</i>
<i>Pavel Payano</i>	<i>First Essex</i>	<i>10/19/2023</i>

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By Mr. Pacheco, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1268) of Marc R. Pacheco, Adam Scanlon, Jack Patrick Lewis, Paul R. Feeney and other members of the General Court for legislation relative to creating intensive stabilization and treatment units within the Department of Mental Health. Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery.

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[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE SENATE, NO. 1310 OF 2021-2022.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

—————  
**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court  
(2023-2024)**  
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An Act relative to creating intensive stabilization and treatment units within the Department of Mental Health.

*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 2020 Official Edition, is hereby  
2 amended by adding the following section at the end thereof:-

3 Section 25. There shall be, within the department of mental health, at least two intensive  
4 stabilization and treatment units for patients who exhibit persistently aggressive or self-  
5 destructive behavior or exhibit atypically, intensively violent behavior that requires specialized  
6 care. One unit shall be designated for men and one unit shall be designated for women. Said  
7 units shall be located at a specific and central location and be secured and physically separate  
8 from other units. These units shall provide comprehensive evaluation, stabilization and  
9 psychiatric treatment which shall include, but not be limited to: violence assessments, behavioral

10 management consultation, interpersonal conflict resolution strategies, critical incident de-  
11 briefings and transfer evaluations. These units shall include appropriate staffing levels to address  
12 the needs of the patient population with an interdisciplinary staff, including but not limited to  
13 registered nurses, clinical social workers, mental health workers, psychiatrists, clinical  
14 psychologists and rehabilitation specialists, who have undergone specialized training to work  
15 effectively with this patient population. Upon behavior stabilization, the staff on the unit shall  
16 develop a plan for the safe and timely transfer of the patient out of the intensive stabilization and  
17 treatment unit.