

HOUSE No. 2206

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Kate Donaghue and Michael P. Kushmerek

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 enabling physician assistants to authorize psychiatric holds and ensure adequate training on their use.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Kate Donaghue</i>	<i>19th Worcester</i>	<i>1/17/2025</i>
<i>Michael P. Kushmerek</i>	<i>3rd Worcester</i>	<i>1/17/2025</i>
<i>Christopher M. Markey</i>	<i>9th Bristol</i>	<i>2/20/2025</i>
<i>John J. Marsi</i>	<i>6th Worcester</i>	<i>2/20/2025</i>
<i>Patricia A. Duffy</i>	<i>5th Hampden</i>	<i>2/20/2025</i>
<i>Paul McMurtry</i>	<i>11th Norfolk</i>	<i>2/20/2025</i>
<i>Joseph D. McKenna</i>	<i>18th Worcester</i>	<i>3/3/2025</i>
<i>Steven George Xiarhos</i>	<i>5th Barnstable</i>	<i>3/3/2025</i>
<i>Natalie M. Higgins</i>	<i>4th Worcester</i>	<i>3/3/2025</i>
<i>Bruce E. Tarr</i>	<i>First Essex and Middlesex</i>	<i>3/3/2025</i>
<i>Judith A. Garcia</i>	<i>11th Suffolk</i>	<i>3/12/2025</i>
<i>Samantha Montaño</i>	<i>15th Suffolk</i>	<i>3/12/2025</i>
<i>Erika Uyterhoeven</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>	<i>3/24/2025</i>
<i>Adrian C. Madaro</i>	<i>1st Suffolk</i>	<i>3/24/2025</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	<i>3/24/2025</i>
<i>Russell E. Holmes</i>	<i>6th Suffolk</i>	<i>4/1/2025</i>
<i>Jessica Ann Giannino</i>	<i>16th Suffolk</i>	<i>4/1/2025</i>

Rebecca L. Rausch
Sally P. Kerans

Norfolk, Worcester and Middlesex
13th Essex

4/7/2025
6/3/2025

HOUSE No. 2206

By Representatives Donaghue of Westborough and Kushmerek of Fitchburg, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2206) of Kate Donaghue, Michael P. Kushmerek and others for legislation to enable physician assistants to authorize psychiatric holds and ensure adequate training on their use. Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court
(2025-2026)**

An Act enabling physician assistants to authorize psychiatric holds and ensure adequate training on their use.

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. The first sentence of subsection (a) of section 12 of chapter 123 of the
2 General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after the words “section 2 of chapter 112,” the
3 following words:- a physician assistant licensed pursuant to section 9E of chapter 112,.

4 SECTION 2. The second sentence of said subsection (a) of said section 12 of said chapter
5 123 is hereby amended by inserting after the word “physician,” the following words:- , physician
6 assistant.

7 SECTION 3. The third sentence of said subsection (a) of said section 12 of said chapter
8 123 is hereby amended by inserting after the word “physician,” the following words:- , physician
9 assistant.

10 SECTION 4. Section 12 of said chapter 123 is hereby amended by adding the following
11 subsection:-

12 (f) Before any individual authorized by this section shall restrain an individual or
13 authorize a psychiatric hold, the individual shall undergo 3 hours of specialized training in direct
14 mental health evaluation. The training shall be developed pursuant to regulations and
15 specifications by the department of mental health.