

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 2507**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

*Edward R. Philips*

*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 assessing health care access.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Edward R. Philips</i>	<i>8th Norfolk</i>	<i>1/16/2025</i>
<i>Michael D. Brady</i>	<i>Second Plymouth and Norfolk</i>	<i>3/4/2025</i>
<i>Christopher Richard Flanagan</i>	<i>1st Barnstable</i>	<i>3/24/2025</i>

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By Representative Philips of Sharon, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2507) of Edward R. Philips and Michael D. Brady that the Department of Public Health, the Health Policy Commission and the Center for Health Information Analysis study current access to essential health services. Public Health.

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[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE HOUSE, NO. 2251 OF 2023-2024.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court  
(2025-2026)**  
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An Act assessing health care access.

*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 111 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, is hereby  
2 amended by adding at the end the following section:

3 The Department, in consultation with the Health Policy Commission and the Center for  
4 Health Information Analysis, shall commission a study to examine current access to essential  
5 health services, as defined by the department of public health under section 51G of chapter 111,  
6 provided by the Commonwealth’s acute care hospitals and in-patient psychiatric hospitals, the  
7 effect of the discontinuation of essential health services on that access, the projected need for  
8 those services in all regions of the Commonwealth over the next decade and provide  
9 recommendations as to how ensure access to those essential health services. This study shall

10 include, but not be limited to (i) the current number of beds and services provided by each  
11 hospital in each region, including the most recent year's admission and discharge data for each  
12 service by hospital; (ii) review discontinuations of essential health services by hospitals since  
13 1992 and their effect on access to these essential health services; (ii) review hospital closures  
14 since 1992 and their effect on access to these essential health services;(iii) review plans provided  
15 to the department of public health following the discontinuation of essential services for  
16 compliance and identify where essential health services were provided following the  
17 discontinuation; (iv) calculate projected need for essential health services in each region; (v)  
18 calculate projected need, if any, for providers of essential health services to meet regional needs  
19 over the next decade; (vi) examine financial conditions that might lead to the discontinuation of  
20 essential health services, including but not limited to private and public reimbursement rates;  
21 (vii) identify essential health services by region that might be vulnerable to discontinuation over  
22 the next three years; (viii) examine the need for additional post in-patient discharge services  
23 (viii) Identify steps protect essential health services provided by financially vulnerable acute care  
24 and inpatient psychiatric hospitals; (ix) review methods implemented in other states to  
25 discourage and manage the discontinuation of essential health services by acute care hospitals  
26 and in-patient psychiatric hospitals closures; and (x) recommend any policy changes to assure  
27 access to essential health services in all regions of the Commonwealth.