

HOUSE No. 4608

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, October 16, 2025.

The committee on Public Health, to whom was referred the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2399) of Mindy Domb and Marjorie C. Decker relative to access to health care for people with Long COVID, reports recommending that the accompanying bill (House, No. 4608) ought to pass.

For the committee,

MARJORIE C. DECKER.

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

An Act to improve access to health care for people with Long COVID.

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 so appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, is hereby
2 amended by inserting after section 24O the following section:-

3 Section 24P. (a) The department, subject to appropriation, shall develop and implement
4 an evidence-based culturally-specific patient navigation pilot program for people living with a
5 Long COVID diagnosis, aligned with the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and
6 Medicine (NASEM) Long COVID definition.

7 (b) The department shall design the pilot program to: (i) reduce barriers for Long COVID
8 patients in accessing timely and knowledgeable medical treatment, (ii) provide referrals for
9 clinical care and nonclinical support to patients with Long COVID and their families, (iii)
10 facilitate access to medical information and resources to help meet daily needs and emotional
11 support, (iv) integrate within healthcare teams for maximum efficacy, (v) study any diseases
12 associated with Long COVID, including but not limited to, myalgic encephalomyelitis/chronic
13 fatigue syndrome, heart disease, postural orthostatic tachycardia syndrome, mast cell activation

14 syndrome, fibromyalgia, diabetes, and hyperlipidemia, and (vi) improve health equity in Long
15 COVID care in the commonwealth.

16 (c) The department shall develop guidelines to standardize Long COVID patient
17 navigator care, which could include appropriate training to ensure skills and knowledge needed
18 to deliver the proposed service.

19 (d) The pilot program shall include, but not be limited to, the following activities:

20 (i) collecting and sharing data;

21 (ii) making initial contact with patients, conducting social and medical needs
22 assessments;

23 (iii) providing navigation on clinical needs, including assistance for patients with Long
24 COVID to identify appropriate subspecialty care, making referrals and connections to clinicians,
25 facilitating communication among providers and with the patient's health care team, scheduling
26 medical appointments, and optimizing insurance coverage and disability insurance coverage;

27 (iv) providing navigation on social and emotional support needs, including providing
28 connections for patients with Long COVID to lay support group services to address stress for
29 patients with Long COVID and to social services to address issues that include transportation,
30 language barriers and interpretation, food insecurity, housing insecurity, unemployment
31 assistance, connections to community-based organizations and other services;

32 (v) providing resources to inform shared decision-making and the availability of social
33 and community services;

34 (vi) establishing reimbursement for patient navigator services and supervision of such
35 services.

36 (e) The department may establish a consumer advisory board consisting primarily of
37 people living with Long COVID in the Commonwealth and healthcare providers engaged in this
38 care, who shall assist the department in developing the pilot program to ensure that the program
39 considers the varied needs and populations of those living with Long COVID across the
40 Commonwealth. The department may develop guidelines and processes to issue stipend
41 payments to reimburse for participation in the consumer advisory board.

42 (f) Not later than one year after the implementation of the pilot program, said department
43 shall provide a report to the clerks of the house and the senate and to the joint committees on
44 public health and health care financing. The report shall include, but not be limited to: (i) the
45 activities of the pilot, including services provided, the geographical locations of services, (ii) the
46 number of patients who participated and the region where they live, and (iii) the advisability of
47 expanding the pilot program.