

HOUSE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Mary S. Keefe

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 to protect safety net access for Massachusetts residents.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Mary S. Keefe</i>	<i>15th Worcester</i>	<i>1/14/2025</i>

HOUSE No.

[Pin Slip]

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 187 OF 2023-2024.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act to protect safety net access for Massachusetts residents.

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 5 of chapter 18 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2018 Official Edition, is
2 hereby amended by inserting after the fourth paragraph the following paragraph: -

3 Upon being notified by the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance
4 (DCAMM) that a lease is set to expire, and by which the Department decides not to renew a
5 lease or close the community service office, at least 120 days before taking steps to not renew a
6 lease for or close a community service office and at least 120 days before soliciting any
7 proposals for a lease for a community service office, the commissioner shall notify the local
8 legislators of that region and the regional legal services of the proposed action, the community
9 service office that would be affected, and the reasons for the proposed action. At the request of
10 the legislature or legal services, the department shall provide testimony and data regarding its
11 plans, including but not limited to a comparison of the current and proposed community service

12 office locations for low-income households in the service area with respect to (a) transportation
13 options, including the cost and frequency of public transit and travel time to and from the current
14 and proposed location; (b) office hours; (c) access for seniors, persons with disabilities, persons
15 who are needed to care for children or other family members; persons who are employed; (d) the
16 availability of staff who speak the languages spoken by persons with limited English proficiency
17 in the service area; (e) in areas where there are advisory boards the minutes showing that the
18 board has been appraised of the intention to close or relocate; (f) surveys from its current
19 recipients of how the proposed closure or relocation would affect them. The surveys shall be
20 done in the recipients' primary or preferred language in order to maximize participation and
21 ensure equity; (g) a report of the community services, and community economic and social
22 relations near the current and proposed community service office; (h) demographic and poverty
23 rate data of the residents of both the current and proposed community service office location; and
24 (i) other matters as requested by the said requester.