

HOUSE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Marjorie C. Decker and Mindy Domb

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 protecting public health and reducing health care costs.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Marjorie C. Decker</i>	<i>25th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/15/2025</i>

HOUSE No.

[Pin Slip]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to protecting public health and reducing health care costs.

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. Chapter 111 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
2 section 23 the following section:-

3 Section 23A. (a) The department, in order to protect public health and contain health care
4 costs in the Commonwealth, shall create an assessment tool to quantify the health impacts and
5 costs of emissions associated with grid electricity and delivered fuels, and the benefits of energy
6 conservation, energy efficiency and renewable energy in the Commonwealth. The assessment
7 tool shall separately quantify health impacts and costs of emissions to environmental justice
8 populations, the MassHealth program, community hospitals, the state budget and public health.

9 In creating the assessment tool, the department shall draw upon relevant agency expertise
10 and resources, including but not be limited to, the Center for Health Information and Analysis,
11 the executive office of health and human services and its MassHealth program, and the division
12 of energy resources. In the design and operation of its assessment tool the department shall build
13 upon existing health impacts assessment tools and analyses, including but not be limited to the

14 health and health cost impacts used in the US Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Power
15 Plan, and Co-Benefits Risk Assessment, as well as Health Care Without Harm's Healthcare
16 Energy Impact Calculator. The assessment tool created by the department shall incorporate and
17 analyze factors that have an impact on health, including but not be limited to, health impacts and
18 costs due to particulate matter < 2.5 microns, sulfur oxides, nitrogen oxides, carbon, carbon
19 dioxide, and mercury emissions from energy sources. The assessment tool created by the
20 department shall generate a breakdown of how the analyzed factors will impact specific
21 measures of health status, including but not be limited to, health impacts costs and savings from
22 premature death, cardiovascular events or injury, chronic bronchitis, asthma, respiratory
23 symptoms, hospital admissions, restricted activity days, lost school and work days, and
24 developmental/neurological problems, or, as applicable, their avoided impacts and cost savings
25 resulting from energy conservation, energy efficiency and renewable energy in the
26 Commonwealth.

27 (b) The department shall update the tool every 3 years, or as needed, to maintain its
28 accuracy. Beginning not later than 24 months after the effective date of this act, any new or
29 revised policy, regulation, or program of the Commonwealth, or any ruling or adjudication by an
30 agency of the Commonwealth that impacts polluting emissions, especially those for energy,
31 buildings, transportation and waste, shall explicitly factor in the tool's output reflecting the
32 action's health incidents, health costs or avoided impact's savings.

33 SECTION 2. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, not later than
34 12 months after the effective date of this act, the department of public health shall submit the
35 assessment tool, created pursuant to section 23A of chapter 111, and explanatory materials on its
36 use to the clerks of the senate and the house of representatives, the secretary of the executive

- 37 office of health and human services, and the secretary of the executive office of energy and
38 environmental affairs.