

HOUSE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Marjorie C. Decker

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 reducing emergency department boarding.

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 reducing emergency department boarding.

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. Section 12 of Chapter 123 of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding
2 after the first paragraph in subsection (a) the following paragraphs:-

3 No person shall be involuntarily held for more than 72 hours at a facility that has not
4 been authorized by the department to perform evaluations under section 12(b). Any person held
5 longer than 72 hours must be released.

6 Any psychiatric hold lasting for more than 48 hours at a facility that has not been
7 authorized by the department to perform evaluations under section 12(b) must be referred to the
8 Committee for Public Counsel Services for appointment of counsel.