

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

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***Kate Donaghue and Michael P. Kushmerek***

*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 enabling physician assistants to authorize psychiatric holds and ensure adequate training on their use.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Kate Donaghue</i>	<i>19th Worcester</i>	<i>1/15/2025</i>
<i>Michael P. Kushmerek</i>	<i>3rd Worcester</i>	<i>1/17/2025</i>

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

[Pin Slip]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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

An Act enabling physician assistants to authorize psychiatric holds and ensure adequate training on their use.

*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. The first sentence of subsection (a) of section 12 of chapter 123 of the  
2 General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after the words “section 2 of chapter 112,” the  
3 following words:- a physician assistant licensed pursuant to section 9E of chapter 112,.

4 SECTION 2. The second sentence of said subsection (a) of said section 12 of said chapter  
5 123 is hereby amended by inserting after the word “physician,” the following words:- , physician  
6 assistant.

7 SECTION 3. The third sentence of said subsection (a) of said section 12 of said chapter  
8 123 is hereby amended by inserting after the word “physician,” the following words:- , physician  
9 assistant.

10 SECTION 4. Section 12 of said chapter 123 is hereby amended by adding the following  
11 subsection:-

12 (f) Before any individual authorized by this section shall restrain an individual or  
13 authorize a psychiatric hold, the individual shall undergo 3 hours of specialized training in direct  
14 mental health evaluation. The training shall be developed pursuant to regulations and  
15 specifications by the department of mental health.