

SENATE No. 1397

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Paul R. Feeney

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 establishing alternative models for behavioral health transport.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Paul R. Feeney

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Bristol and Norfolk

SENATE No. 1397

By Mr. Feeney, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1397) of Paul R. Feeney for legislation to establish five regional pilot programs to examine alternative models for transport of behavioral health patients. Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act establishing alternative models for behavioral health transport.

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. Notwithstanding any general or specific law to the contrary, the Secretary
2 of Health and Human Services, or a designee, shall establish and implement five regional pilot
3 programs to examine alternative models for transport of behavioral health patients that are
4 geographically dispersed across the state. The programs shall be designed to promote the use of
5 non-emergency medical transport for transporting individuals in need of behavioral health
6 intervention. In designing the pilot, the executive office of health and human services shall
7 consult with existing hospital-based providers of alternative behavioral health treatment.
8 MassHealth and its contracted health insurers, health plans, health maintenance organizations,
9 behavioral health management firms, and third-party administrators under contract to a Medicaid
10 managed care organization or primary care clinician plan shall provide reimbursement for non-
11 emergency medical transport for behavioral health patients provided by pilot participants.

SECTION 2. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the health policy commission, in collaboration with the center for health information and analysis and the executive office of health and human services, shall collect data and study the effectiveness of the pilot, including differences in transfer times for behavioral health patients, non-stigmatized treatment of behavioral health patients, and cost-effectiveness and appropriate use of resources of this alternative method of transportation as compared to traditional non-emergency medical transport by ambulance. Such an analysis shall examine MassHealth reimbursement of these services under the pilot program and make recommendations on setting reimbursement for these services in the Medicaid and commercial markets.