

SENATE No. 1401

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Cindy F. Friedman

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 provide more timely treatment of inpatient mental health care.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Cindy F. Friedman

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Fourth Middlesex

SENATE No. 1401

By Ms. Friedman, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1401) of Cindy F. Friedman for legislation to provide more timely treatment of inpatient mental health care. Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. 2785 OF 2023-2024.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act to provide more timely treatment of inpatient mental health care.

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 2 of chapter 123 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out, in line 12, the word “and”.

3 SECTION 2. Said section 2 of said chapter 123, as so appearing, is hereby further
4 amended by inserting after the word “facilities”, in lines 13 to 14, the following words:- , and (4)
5 shall be developed in a manner consistent with available physician resources and in accordance
6 with national standards for providing evening and night coverage for hospitals.

7 SECTION 3. Section 5 of said chapter 123, as so appearing, is hereby amended by
8 inserting after the fourth sentence the following sentence:- Such independent medical
9 examination, if requested by the indigent person or his counsel, shall be requested not more than

10 24 hours after the appointment of counsel and shall be completed within 3 business days after
11 such request for the independent medical examination.

12 SECTION 4. Said section 5 of said chapter 123, as so appearing, is hereby further
13 amended by striking out, in line 15, the words “unless counsel requests a delay”.

14 SECTION 5. Section 7 of said chapter 123, as so appearing, is hereby amended by
15 striking out, in lines 24 and 25, the words “, unless a delay is requested by the person or his
16 counsel”.

17 SECTION 6. Said section 7 of said chapter 123, as so appearing, is hereby further
18 amended by striking out, in lines 26 to 27, the words “, unless a delay is requested by the person
19 or his counsel”.

20 SECTION 7. Section 8B of said chapter 123, as so appearing, is hereby amended by
21 striking out, in line 21, the figure “fourteen” and inserting in place thereof the figure:- “5”.

22 SECTION 8. Subsection (d) of section 5-308 of chapter 190B of the General Laws, as
23 appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the words “as
24 expeditiously as possible”, in line 55, the following words:- ; provided however, for patients in
25 inpatient mental health facilities, said hearing shall be conducted within 7 days of the filing of
26 the petition and the notice required under subsection (c) of this section shall be adjusted
27 accordingly.

28 SECTION 9. Notwithstanding any general or special law, regulation or procedure to the
29 contrary, the department of children and families, in conjunction with the office of the child
30 advocate, shall develop a facilitated process and time frame for the administration of

- 31 antipsychotic medication for children in their custody who are hospitalized in inpatient
- 32 psychiatric facilities.