SENATE DOCKET, NO. 1598 FILED ON: 1/16/2025

SENATE . . . . . No. 1543

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 establishing a nursing workforce center.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
Cindy F. Friedman	*Fourth Middlesex*	
Joanne M. Comerford	*Hampshire, Franklin and Worcester*	*2/5/2025*
Bruce E. Tarr	*First Essex and Middlesex*	*4/2/2025*
Jacob R. Oliveira	*Hampden, Hampshire and Worcester*	*9/30/2025*
John F. Keenan	*Norfolk and Plymouth*	*9/30/2025*
James B. Eldridge	*Middlesex and Worcester*	*10/6/2025*

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By Ms. Friedman, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1543) of Cindy F. Friedman and Joanne M. Comerford for legislation to establish a nursing workforce center at the University of Massachusetts medical school in Worcester. Public Health.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act establishing a nursing workforce center.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

SECTION 1. Chapter 75 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after section 36E the following section:-

Section 36F. (a) There shall be at the University of Massachusetts medical school in Worcester a nursing workforce center. The purpose of the nursing workforce center shall be to gather data, research and provide analysis to advise policy leaders on how to address the current and future nursing workforce needs of nurses and others who support nursing care and to provide recommendations to advance nursing science and practice in the commonwealth. The nursing workforce center shall be administered by an executive director who shall be appointed by the dean of the University of Massachusetts medical school. The nursing workforce center shall be subject to the direction and oversight of the executive office of health and human services.

(b) The nursing workforce center shall:

(1) Convene a diverse group of key stakeholders including nurses, health care providers, business and industry leaders, consumers, state agencies, legislators and educators to collaborate on strategies to improve the nursing workforce and speak with one voice on issues impacting the nursing workforce;

(2) Conduct research on best practices and quality patient outcomes across settings;

(3) Prepare and disseminate written reports and recommendations regarding the current and future status and trends of the nursing workforce;

(4) Research, analyze and report data related to the recruitment and retention of the nursing workforce;

(5) Develop and implement strategies to recruit and retain nurses in the commonwealth;

(6) Recommend systemic changes to the nursing workforce pipeline;

(7) Foster collaboration among members of the health care community to achieve policy consensus, promote diversity across the profession and within the health care workforce and enhance the knowledge of nursing practice;

(8) Encourage initiatives to support nursing excellence through innovative strategies such as recognition programs, incentives for professional growth and activities that enhance the visibility and positive perception of the nursing profession across the commonwealth;

(9) Provide consultation, technical assistance and information related to nursing resources within and outside of the commonwealth and serve as a clearinghouse on nursing practice and nursing workforce data; and

(10) Examine and engage in other matters deemed appropriate by the executive office of health and human services.

(c) Annually, the nursing workforce center shall submit a report summarizing its activities and made policy recommendations to the secretary of health and human services, the chairs of the house and senate committees on ways and means, the chairs of the joint committee on public health, the chairs of the joint committee on health care financing and the chairs joint committee on higher education. The report shall be made publicly available on the nursing workforce center's website.

SECTION 2. The first nursing workforce center report, established pursuant section 36F of Chapter 75 of the General Laws, shall be submitted not later than 1 year after the effective date of this act.