

SENATE No. 1613

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Jacob R. Oliveira

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 increase access to health transportation.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Jacob R. Oliveira

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Hampden, Hampshire and Worcester

SENATE No. 1613

By Mr. Oliveira, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1613) of Jacob R. Oliveira for legislation to provide access to health transportation for vulnerable patients. Public Health.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act to increase access to health transportation.

Whereas, The deferred operation of this act would tend to defeat its purpose, which is to which is to increase access to health transportation, therefore it is hereby declared to be an emergency law, necessary for the immediate preservation of the public convenience.

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

1 Chapter 111 of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the following section:-

2 Section 245. A hospital or a home health agency shall provide access to health
3 transportation for vulnerable patients, including geographically-isolated, low income, English
4 language challenged, illiterate, having a disability, or elder adults struggling with dementia.

5 As used in this section, the term “appointment companion” shall mean a person who, at
6 the request of a patient, is provided through a hospital or home health agency that ensures a
7 patient is taken to and from their appointments whether in a patient’s own transportation, public
8 transportation or health care transportation.

9 An appointment companion shall not be responsible for any costs that the patient accrues
10 related to transportation.

11 A hospital or a home health agency shall ensure an easier process and effective
12 coordination to access to health transportation. Patient online accounts shall include a section to
13 request transportation services for an appointment companion for vulnerable patients includes
14 those in geographically-isolated, low income, English language challenged, illiterate, have a
15 disability, or elder adults struggling with dementia.

16 If a medical appointment for which a patient has requested transportation is scheduled,
17 the request shall automatically transfer to future appointments.

18 The department of public health shall promulgate regulations to implement this section.