

SENATE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Patrick M. O'Connor

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 relative to emergency medical services oversight.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Patrick M. O'Connor

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

First Plymouth and Norfolk

SENATE No.

[Pin Slip]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to emergency medical services oversight.

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. Paragraph (6) of subsection (b) of section 3 of chapter 111C, as appearing
2 in the 2022 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the word “years”, in line 32,
3 the following words:- , provided that, such plan shall include guidelines for clear and streamlined
4 communication between the regional councils and the department.

5 SECTION 2. Paragraph (6) of subsection (c) of said section 4 of said chapter 111C, as so
6 appearing, is hereby amended by inserting after the words “input from”, in line 50, the following
7 words:- , and communication to, .

8 SECTION 3. Said section 4 of said chapter 111C, as so appearing, is hereby amended by
9 inserting after subsection (c) the following section:-

10 (d) Each regional EMS council shall prepare and annually file with the department and
11 the board, on or before May 30, a regional EMS services and support plan outlining the regional
12 EMS council’s planned efforts to meet and advance the regional EMS council’s roles and
13 responsibilities, as outlined in section 4(c) of this chapter. Each regional EMS plan shall be

14 consistent with the state EMS plan, although it may reflect regional differences. Each regional
15 EMS system plan shall also include, without limitation, a trauma plan consisting of, at a
16 minimum, trauma point of entry guidelines and scene triage criteria.

17 Upon submission, the department may amend each regional EMS council contract,
18 subject to appropriation and to the guidelines provided by section 5 of this chapter, to reflect and
19 respond to the submitted regional EMS plans.

20 SECTION 4. Subsection (d) of section 5 of said chapter 111C, as so appearing, is hereby
21 amended by inserting after the word “regions”, in line 18, the following words:- , as well as the
22 regional council’s annual submitted regional EMS plan.

23 SECTION 5. Said chapter 111C is hereby amended by striking out section 14, as so
24 appearing, and inserting in place thereof the following section:-

25 The department shall establish and implement procedures for the making, transmission
26 and investigation of complaints concerning any person certified, licensed, designated or
27 otherwise approved by the department under this chapter. The department shall prepare, and
28 make available on the office of emergency services website, a description of such procedures,
29 including any forms or other materials required to make such a complaint. The department shall,
30 as the public interest may require, investigate every complaint received, except to the extent that
31 the act or practice complained of does not constitute a violation of this chapter or any regulation,
32 guideline or order under this chapter. The department shall refer complaints to other agencies
33 and organizations, as appropriate. Upon investigation the department shall notify the
34 complainant, if known, of its action in the matter. If it finds that an investigation is not required,
35 it shall notify the complainant, if known, of its finding and with its reason.

36 SECTION 6. Section 3 of said chapter 111C, as so appearing, is hereby amended by
37 inserting after subsection (c) the following section:-

38 (d) The department, in consultation with the regional councils, shall study and make
39 recommendations for potential permanent funding sources and mechanisms to support the office
40 of emergency medical services, the regional councils, and central medical emergency direction
41 centers. The department shall issue a report, with findings and recommendations, to the clerks of
42 the house of representatives and senate, as well as the house and senate committees on ways and
43 means, by December 1, 2025.

44 SECTION 7. Chapter 111C of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
45 section 25 the following section:-

46 Section 26. (a) There shall be an emergency medical services peer licensure advisory
47 committee, which shall consist of the commissioner or a designee, the director of the office of
48 emergency medical services or a designee, and 6 members appointed by the commissioner, or
49 their designees, as follows: 1 each from the Professional Fire Fighters of Massachusetts, the
50 Massachusetts Call/Volunteer Firefighters Association, the Professional Fire Chiefs Association
51 of Massachusetts, the Massachusetts Ambulance Association, the Massachusetts Association of
52 Hospital-Based Paramedic Services, and the International Association of EMTs and Paramedics.

53 (b) The advisory committee shall meet, at a minimum, twice annually to advise the
54 department on the complaint resolution process and disciplinary actions relative to persons
55 certified, licensed, designated or otherwise approved by the department under chapter 111C.
56 Each appointed member of this advisory council shall serve a term of 3 years, or until a

- 57 successor is appointed and qualified. No appointed member shall serve more than 3 terms.
- 58 Appointees shall serve without compensation.