

SENATE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Edward J. Kennedy

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 resolve:

Resolve to ensure delivery of mental health services to adults with acute mental illness.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Edward J. Kennedy

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

First Middlesex

SENATE No.

[Pin Slip]

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. 1256 OF 2023-2024.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

Resolve to ensure delivery of mental health services to adults with acute mental illness.

1 **Resolved**, there shall be a special commission to study the staffing levels and delivery of
2 services for case managers at the Department of Mental Health tasked with serving adults with
3 acute mental illness. The commission shall examine individual sites in terms of number of
4 Department of Mental Health case managers working at each site and their respective average
5 caseload as well as examining the number of adults with acute mental illness who were refused
6 service and the reasons that service was denied. The commission shall examine options for
7 ensuring services for all adults with acute mental illness, and the ability to manage a caseload
8 effectively for each case manager employed by the Department of Mental Health. The
9 commission will also examine the feasibility of reestablishing outpatient clinics as a means of
10 achieving these goals and as a means of reducing the waitlists at community clinics and private
11 practices. The commission shall also examine language accessibility issues and linguistic
12 capacity in the realm of mental health work. One of the goals of the commission will be to study

13 recruitment strategies and develop incentives for people to pursue careers in the mental health
14 field and case work in particular.

15 The commission shall consist of the Commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of
16 Mental Health, or his/her designee, who shall serve as chair of the special commission; 2
17 members of the Senate, 1 of whom shall be appointed by the President of the Senate and 1 by the
18 Minority Leader; 2 members of the House, 1 of whom shall be appointed by the Speaker and 1
19 by the Minority Leader; 2 persons to be appointed by the Governor, 1 of whom should be a
20 former commissioner of the Department of Mental Health or a former senior level staff member
21 of the Department of Mental Health who has at least five years of service; a representative of
22 licensed social workers; a representative of the National Association on Mental Illness; and a
23 representative of an organization specializing in suicide prevention, a university faculty member
24 specializing in clinical psychology. The commission shall convene its first meeting not later than
25 July 1, 2025 and shall file a report along with any recommendations for legislative reform not
26 later than January 31, 2026 with the Clerks of the Senate and House of Representatives, the
27 chairs of the Senate and House committees on Ways and Means, and the chairs of the joint
28 committee on Mental Health.