

**SENATE . . . . . No.**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

*Joan B. Lovely*

*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 minimizing suffering during the commitment process.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

*Joan B. Lovely*

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

*Second Essex*

**SENATE . . . . . No.**

[Pin Slip]

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE SENATE, NO. 1041 OF 2023-2024.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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

An Act relative to minimizing suffering during the commitment process.

*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 35 of chapter 123 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2020 Official Edition,  
2 is hereby amended by striking, in lines 43-45 the words:- "The court shall order examination by a  
3 qualified physician, a qualified psychologist or a qualified social worker", and inserting in place  
4 thereof the following:-

5           Upon appearance or apprehension, the court shall have the individual examined by a  
6 physician or a qualified advanced practice registered nurse designated to have the authority to  
7 admit to a facility. If the physician or qualified advanced registered nurse reports that the failure  
8 to hospitalize or provide medical treatment to the individual would create a likelihood of serious  
9 harm, the court shall order the individual with alcohol or substance use disorder to be committed  
10 to a facility designated by the department of public health for treatment during the pendency of  
11 the petition.