

Joint Committee on Health Care Financing 2025-2026 (194th) Bill Summary

<u>Bill Number:</u>	House, No. 1408
<u>Title:</u>	AN ACT MAKING TECHNICAL CHANGES TO THE BETSY LEHMAN CENTER FOR PATIENT SAFETY AND MEDICAL ERROR REDUCTION ENABLING STATUTE
<u>Sponsor:</u>	Representative Greg Schwartz (Newton)
<u>Hearing Date:</u>	June 2, 2025
<u>Reporting Deadline:</u>	August 1, 2025
<u>Prior History:</u>	2023-24 (H.1165* – Balser): Accompanied a new draft of multiple matters (H4620), reported favorably and referred to House Ways and Means; Passed to be engrossed and published as amended (H4643); Read and referred to Senate Ways and Means; Reported favorably by Senate Ways and Means with a new draft (S2871); Reprinted as amended (S2881); Conference committee (H5159) reported to the House. Conference committee report accepted, enacted; Signed by the Governor on January 8, 2025, see Chapter 343 of the Acts of 2024. 2021-22 (H1241): Attached to S751 and reported favorably; Referred to Senate Ways and Means; No further action taken.
<u>Similar Matters:</u>	S843 (Creem – Identical, Health Care Financing)

Current Law:

M.G.L. Ch. 6A § 16 establishes the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) and certain agencies within the executive office. **Chapter 343 of the Acts of 2024** removed the Betsy Lehman center for patient safety and medical error reduction as an agency in EOHHS.

M.G.L. Ch. 12C establishes the Center for Health Information and Analysis (CHIA), an independent agency tasked with collecting and analyzing health care data and publishing annual reports on health care costs, cost trends, market power, and quality data in support of the annual health care cost trends hearings conducted by the Health Policy Commission (HPC).

M.G.L. Ch. 12C § 15 establishes the Betsy Lehman Center for patient safety and medical error reduction, within CHIA. The Lehman center is responsible for developing, evaluating, and disseminating best practices in patient safety and medical error reduction and coordinating efforts among state agencies, healthcare providers, and the general public for a unified approach to patient

safety and medical error reduction. The Lehman Center is required to report annually to the General Court on its progress.

M.G.L. Ch. 12C § 16 mandates CHIA publish an annual report on health care cost trends based on data collected from payers and providers under sections 8, 9 & 10 of chapter 12C, market power reviews as required under section 13 of chapter 6D, and quality data collected by the Betsy Lehman Center for Patient Safety and Medical Error Reduction under section 15 of chapter 12C.

Summary:

The proposed legislation strikes chapter 12C section 15, and inserts language, clarifying that the Lehman center is responsible for convening all entities and consumers with expertise in patient safety to develop a statewide strategic plan that improves safety for both patients and health care workers. The proposed bill also requires the Lehman Center to evaluate approaches for monitoring and improving performance of health care systems through patient safety data resources and allows the Lehman center to establish a trust fund to receive, maintain, and spend federal and foundation grants.