

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

<u>Bill Number:</u>	House, No. 4062
<u>Title:</u>	AN ACT RELATIVE TO ESSENTIAL SERVICES
<u>Sponsor:</u>	Representative John J. Lawn, Jr. (Watertown)
<u>Hearing Date:</u>	June 2, 2025
<u>Reporting Deadline:</u>	August 1, 2025
<u>Prior History:</u>	New Bill
<u>Similar Matters:</u>	N/A

Current Law:

Chapter 111 of the General Laws directs the department of public health to establish, maintain, and enforce certain offices, programs, and authorities pertaining to the general health and welfare of the Commonwealth.

211 CMR 52.12 is a Division of Insurance (DOI) regulation, that ensures health insurance carriers maintain provider networks that offer timely and sufficient access to covered services for insured individuals. This regulation applies to all health plans that include a provider network within the Commonwealth.

Summary:

The proposed legislation amends section 51G of chapter 111, adding patient access requirements for DPH. After a hospital or essential health service informs DPH (at least 90 days prior to their closing), DPH must consider:

- State health resource plan (conditions under which physicians, nurses, psychologists, and social workers can be held liable for damages); and
- Seek and analysis from DOI when determining if the closure will result in a carrier not meeting network adequacy standards.