

**Committee on Public Health  
Bill Summary**

<b>Bill No.</b>	H2507/S1610
<b>Title:</b>	<i>An Act assessing health care access</i>
<b>Sponsor:</b>	Representative Edward R. Philips/Senator Jacob R. Oliveira,
<b>Committee:</b>	Public Health
<b>Hearing Date:</b>	June 25, 2025
<b>Similar Matters:</b>	S1610
<b>Prior History:</b>	Refile of H2251 of 23-24; Referred to Committee on Public Health; Study
<b>Reporting Deadline:</b>	August 24, 2025

**Current Law:**

- **M.G.L. Chapter 111** pertains to public health.

**Summary:**

This bill would require the department of public health (DPH) to conduct a detailed study assessing the Commonwealth's current state of accessibility to healthcare services. This study aims to examine the effect of the projected need of these health services and the impact of their discontinuation on each region across the state, and would include policy recommendations to assure access to all regions.

**Section 1** requires the DPH to commission a study to examine current access to health services provided by the Commonwealth's acute care hospitals and investigate the effect of the discontinuation of essential health services on that access and their projected need in all regions of the Commonwealth over the next decade. The content of this study must include the following data:

- The number of admissions, discharges, beds, and services, provided by hospitals in each region,
- Discontinuations of essential health services by hospitals since 1992, their effect on accessibility, plans provided to the DPH for compliance,
- Hospital closures since 1992,
- Projected need for essential health services and providers of these services in each region and regions vulnerable of service discontinuation over the next 3 years as well as the need for additional post in-patient discharge services,

- Financial conditions that might lead to the discontinuation of essential health services including but not limited to private and public reimbursement rates,
- Steps to protect services provided by financially vulnerable acute care and inpatient psychiatric hospitals,
- Methods implemented in other states to discourage and manage the discontinuation of essential health services by acute care hospitals and in-patient psychiatric hospitals closures, and
- Policy recommendations to assure access to essential health service in all regions of the Commonwealth.