

**Committee on Public Health
Bill Summary**

Bill No.	H2478
Title:	<i>An Act protecting the interests of patients in the event of the sale, relocation or closure of certain physician practices</i>
Sponsor:	Representative John J. Lawn, Jr.
Committee:	Public Health
Hearing Date:	June 25, 2025
Similar Matters:	None
Prior History:	New File
Reporting Deadline:	August 24, 2025

Current Law:

- **M.G.L. Chapter 6D** pertains to the health policy commission.
- **M.G.L. Chapter 6D § 11** pertains to the Registration program for provider organizations and the division of insurance risk certificate.
- **M.G.L. Chapter 111** pertains to public health.
- **M.G.L. Chapter 112** pertains to the registration of certain professions and occupations.

Summary:

This bill increases state oversight of clinics and physician practices with the intention to sell, relocate, or close by requiring them to notify the department of public health (DPH) at least 180 days before any sale, relocation, or closure takes place and requiring them to provide patients with written notification of intentions to sell, relocate or close at least 90 days before such sale, relocation, or closure. This bill also directs the board of registration in medicine to establish a registry of physician practices and instructs physicians licensed by the board who plan to terminate physician-patient relationships to provide patients with written notice 90 days in advance.

This bill amends M.G.L. Chapter 111 by inserting a new section: Section 53I.

Subsection (a) states that clinics or physician practices registered under M.G.L. Chapter 112 section 4A (registered physician practice) must notify the department of public health (DPH) no less than 180 days before any sale, relocation, or closure. DPH may hold a public hearing to consider the potential impacts of the proposed sale, relocation, or closure not less than 90 days before the proposed date of such event.

Subsection (b) states that any clinic or registered physician practice that plans to sell, relocate or close must provide written notification to patients not less than 90 days prior to the date of such

sale, relocation, or closure. The written notice must inform patients that the clinic or registered physician practice will continue to provide them services for 90 days and offer them resources to find a substitute health care provider, and include the name and contact information for the entity assuming responsibility for the management of the patient's medical records.

SECTION 2 amends M.G.L. Chapter 112 by inserting a new section: Section 4A.

Subsection (a) directs the board of registration in medicine to establish and maintain a registry of all physician practices with more than 10 physicians engaged in a wholly-owned and controlled group practice, excluding those registered pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 6D § 11. Any person seeking to maintain a physician practice must pay a fee to file a registration application with the board containing information the board may reasonably require, including but not limited to the following:

- the identity of the applicant and the physicians who comprise the practice;
- the identity of any substantial equity investor contracted with the practice;
- any management services organization contracted with the practice; and,
- certified copy of the physician practice's certificate of organization, if any, as filed with the secretary of the commonwealth, or any applicable partnership agreement.

All registered physician practices in Massachusetts must renew their certificates of registration with the board every 2 years.

SECTION 3 further amends M.G.L. Chapter 112 by inserting a new section: Section 5P.

Subsection (a) states that any physician licensed by the board planning to terminate a bona fide physician-patient relationship where the physician has a role in the ongoing care and treatment of the patient must issue written notification to the patient no later than 90 days before such termination. Requirements of this section may be met through a written notice through the physician's employing entity, including but not limited to, a physician practice registered under section 4A.

Subsection (b) states that written notice required under this section must also provide patients with resources to assist them in finding a substitute health care provider and include the name and contact information for the entity assuming responsibility for the management of the patient's medical records. Physicians who terminate a physician-patient relationship without providing patients with notice as outlined in this section will be subject to disciplinary actions from the board of registration in medicine.

SECTION 4 states that all physicians required to register pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 112 § 112 must register with the board of registration in medicine by October 1, 2026.