

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 1001**

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

*Daniel J. Hunt*

*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 behavioral health services.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

*Daniel J. Hunt*

*Linda Dorcena Forry*

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

*13th Suffolk*

*First Suffolk*

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 1001**

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By Mr. Hunt of Boston, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1001) of Daniel J. Hunt and Linda Dorcena Forry relative to MassHealth, Medicaid managed care plans certain services rendered to patients required to wait in hospital emergency rooms while awaiting placements in behavioral health beds. Health Care Financing.

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court  
(2015-2016)  
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An Act relative to behavioral health services.

*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 1. Chapter 118E of the general laws is amended by inserting after Section 9F  
2 the following section:-  
  
3 Section 9G. The MassHealth program and its contracted managed care organizations and  
4 behavioral health subcontractors, as applicable, shall pay for services rendered by participating  
5 acute care hospitals to so called boarder patients at no less than 95% of a Medicare inpatient stay.  
6 MassHealth shall cause each Medicaid Managed Care organization contracting with MassHealth  
7 to adopt such payment policy consistent with this Act. MassHealth shall develop and submit a  
8 report regarding such payments by provider to the committee on health care finance not later  
9 than twelve months after the passage of this act and shall further submit recommendations for  
10 improving coordinated care and placement of such patients. For the purposes of this section, a  
11 boarder patient is defined as a patient being held in a hospital emergency department for at least  
12 two (2) hours after a physician has made the decision to admit or transfer the patient.