

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 1716**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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PRESENTED BY:

***Thomas A. Golden, Jr.***

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*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 to promote high value and evidence-based behavioral health care.**

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PETITION OF:

NAME:

*Thomas A. Golden, Jr.*

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

*16th Middlesex*

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 1716**

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By Mr. Golden of Lowell, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1716) of Thomas A. Golden, Jr. for legislation to promote high value and evidence-based behavioral health care. Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery.

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[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE SENATE, NO. 1094 OF 2017-2018.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court  
(2019-2020)**  
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An Act to promote high value and evidence-based behavioral health care.

*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 6D of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after  
2 Section X the following new section:-

3 Section 6D. Study on Evidence-Based Practice.

4 The commission, in consultation with the center for health information and analysis, the  
5 department of public health, and the department of mental health, shall conduct a study on the  
6 variation of the practice of behavioral health providers in the commonwealth, across the full  
7 continuum of care, and shall issue a report, not later than December 31, 2018. The review shall  
8 be posted on the commission’s website and shall be filed with the clerks of the house of  
9 representatives and the senate, and the joint committee on mental health and substance abuse.

10 In measuring adherence to evidence-based standards, the analysis shall include, but not  
11 be limited to: (i) adherence to evidence-based standards of care, as appropriate for each level of  
12 care, (ii) performance on quality and outcome measures, and (iii) patient access to appropriate  
13 discharge planning and transitions throughout the full continuum of care. The report shall include  
14 an examination of any gaps in the availability of data, quality metrics, or other means of  
15 measuring provider performance related to outcomes and quality. The report shall make  
16 recommendations for improving the availability of data collection and the measurement of  
17 behavioral health quality and outcomes, and recommendations related to improving quality and  
18 outcomes for patients.

19 SECTION 2. Section 15 of Chapter 6D of the General Laws is hereby amended by  
20 striking paragraph (b) in its entirety and replace it with the following new language:-

21 (b) The commission shall establish minimum standards for certified ACOs. A certified  
22 ACO shall: (i) be organized or registered as a separate legal entity from its ACO participants; (ii)  
23 have a governance structure that includes an administrative officer, a medical officer, and patient  
24 or consumer representation; (iii) receive reimbursements or compensation from alternative  
25 payment methodologies; (iv) have functional capabilities to coordinate financial payments  
26 amongst its providers; (v) have significant implementation of interoperable health information  
27 technology, as determined by the commission, for the purposes of care delivery coordination and  
28 population management; (vi) develop and file an internal appeals plan as required for risk-  
29 bearing provider organizations under section 24 of chapter 176O; provided, that said plan shall  
30 be approved by the office of patient protection; provided further, that the plan shall be a part of a  
31 membership packet for newly enrolled individuals; (vii) provide medically necessary services  
32 across the care continuum including behavioral and physical health services, as determined by

33 the commission through regulations, internally or through contractual agreements; provided, that  
34 any medically necessary service that is not internally available shall be provided to a patient  
35 through services outside the ACO; (viii) develop guidelines for the delivery of evidence-based  
36 delivery of behavioral health services, including but not limited to, 24/7 access to treatment and  
37 services, 24/7 admissions and discharges, treatment and discharge planning, adherence to  
38 evidence-based standards of care, compliance with quality and outcome measures, and  
39 communication and coordination with all treating providers and payers; (ix) implement systems  
40 that allow ACO participants to report the pricing of services, as defined by the commission  
41 through regulations; further provided that ACO participants shall have the ability to provide  
42 patients with relevant price information when contemplating their care and potential referrals; (x)  
43 submit a report to the commission detailing the percentage of total health care expenditures that  
44 are paid to behavioral health providers; (xi) obtain a risk certificate from the division of  
45 insurance under chapter 176U; and (xii) shall engage patients in shared decision-making,  
46 including, but not limited to, shared-decision making on palliative care and long-term care  
47 services and supports.