

HOUSE No. 1975

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Colleen M. Garry

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 passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act to expand influenza vaccination among health care workers.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Colleen M. Garry

36th Middlesex

Michael R. Knapik

Second Hampden and Hampshire

HOUSE No. 1975

By Ms. Garry of Dracut, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1975) of Colleen M. Garry and Michael R. Knapik for legislation to direct the Department of Public Health to promulgate regulations requiring mandatory influenza vaccinations for health care workers. Public Health.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Thirteen

An Act to expand influenza vaccination among health care workers.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 Summary: The goal of this bill is to advance patient safety by requiring influenza
2 vaccination coverage for all healthcare workers. Pursuant to its broad public health authority and
3 the goal of ensuring a safe and healthy workforce, the Department of Public Health recently
4 implemented regulations that require hospitals and certain other healthcare providers to provide
5 annual influenza vaccinations to its workforce, with DPH monitoring and publishing hospital
6 vaccination rates. However, there is no specific requirement for healthcare workers to be
7 vaccinated. The federal Centers for Disease and Control has promoted the strong benefits of
8 achieving 100% influenza vaccination rates to ensure optimal protection for patients and staff
9 while also reducing the burden of disease and related health care costs. In addition, the Centers
10 for Medicare & Medicaid Services now requires acute care hospitals to report influenza
11 vaccination levels of its workforce as part of the Hospital Inpatient Quality Reporting Program.
12 With both national and state public health authorities strongly supporting the benefits of
13 influenza vaccination, this bill would level the playing field by requiring all workers (employed
14 or otherwise by a health care provider) to be vaccinated against influenza.

15 Section 1:

16 Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the Department of Public
17 Health shall promulgate regulations to require the mandatory influenza vaccination requirements
18 on all direct, contracted, and volunteer staff who are employed or providing assistance to a health
19 care provider, as defined under Section 1 of Chapter 111 of the General Laws.

20 The Department shall implement the regulations within 90 days of the effective date of
21 the law and shall further require health care providers to implement an annual vaccination date
22 for its health care workforce no later than October 1, 2013 and annually thereafter.