

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 2139**

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

**Denise Provost**

*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 reduce Healthcare - associated infections. .

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Denise Provost	27th Middlesex
John W. Scibak	2nd Hampshire
Carl M. Sciortino, Jr.	34th Middlesex
James B. Eldridge	Middlesex and Worcester
Alice K. Wolf	25th Middlesex
Anne M. Gobi	5th Worcester
Ellen Story	3rd Hampshire
Susan C. Tucker	Second Essex and Middlesex
Steven J. D'Amico	4th Bristol
Tom Sannicandro	7th Middlesex
Kay Khan	11th Middlesex
Richard J. Ross	9th Norfolk
Jennifer M. Callahan	18th Worcester
Anthony W. Petrucci	First Suffolk and Middlesex
William Lantigua	16th Essex
Kate Hogan	3rd Middlesex

# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

## AN ACT TO REDUCE HEALTHCARE - ASSOCIATED INFECTIONS. .

*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. Section 51H of chapter 111 of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the following  
2 subsection:—

3 (e) The Department of Public Health shall promulgate regulations requiring Methicillin-Resistant  
4 Staphylococcus Aureus (“MRSA”) screening of high-risk patients, as defined by the department, upon  
5 admission to a healthcare facility. The department definition of high-risk patients may include the  
6 following:

7 (1) The patient has documented medical conditions making them more susceptible to infection  
8 and is scheduled for an inpatient surgery.

9 (2) The patient has been documented as having been previously discharged from a general acute  
10 hospital within the past 30 days prior to the current hospital admission.

11 (3) The patient is being admitted to either the intensive care unit or the burn unit within the  
12 healthcare facility.

13 (4) The patient receives inpatient dialysis treatment.

14 (5) The patient is being transferred from a nursing facility.

15 When MRSA is identified, the healthcare facility shall notify the patient and establish necessary  
16 precautions as determined by the department including but not limited to:

17 (1) Isolation of identified MRSA-colonized or MRSA-infected patients.

18 (2) Monitoring and strict enforcement of hand hygiene requirements with MRSA-colonized or  
19 MRSA-infected patients.

20 Healthcare facilities shall report data and information about MRSA-colonized or MRSA-infected patients  
21 to the department and the Betsy Lehman Center for Patient Safety and Medical Error Reduction. Reports  
22 shall be made in the manner and form established by the department in its regulations.