HOUSE . . . . No. 2155

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

William J. Driscoll, Jr.

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 create an at home test reporting system in the Commonwealth.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
William J. Driscoll, Jr.	*7th Norfolk*	*1/20/2023*

HOUSE . . . . No. 2155

By Representative Driscoll of Milton, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2155) of William J. Driscoll, Jr. for legislation to create an at home test reporting system. Public Health.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

_____

In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court
(2023-2024)

_____

An Act to create an at home test reporting system in the Commonwealth.

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

1   Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the department of public

2   health shall, in collaboration with the executive office of technology services and security,

3   establish a mechanism to gather data from at-home, self-administered tests for COVID-19,

4   influenza, and other illnesses that the department deems detrimental to public health, provided

5   that an FDA approved, or otherwise authorized, at-home test exists for said illness. The

6   department shall work with the necessary partners to establish an online portal on the mass.gov

7   website and an automated telephone line designed for this purpose. Residents shall be able to

8   report up to two-tests per-day, per-illness, per-individual in the household, including themselves,

9   any dependents in their care, and any other member of the household. Additionally, there shall be

10   a separate mechanism for institutional reporting of self-test results for use by pre-K programs, K-

11   12 schools, colleges, and universities in the Commonwealth conducting testing through the

12   school health office or officials. These results shall be tracked and reported separately from tests

13   reported by residential users. There shall also be a mechanism for the institutional reporting

14   outside of the education context, including for congregate care settings, rehabilitation centers,

15   correctional facilities, and others deemed fit by the department. The department shall use these

16   mechanisms to track (1) the total number of at home tests reported, (2) the number of those tests

17   that had positive results, (3) the average positivity rate of at-home tests, and (4) the number of

18   repeat or duplicative tests, including those testing positive after two or more positive tests. The

19   department shall store and maintain this data for an appropriate period, and report weekly on the

20   data gathered. At the discretion of the department, the reporting interval may be increased or

21   changed, provided that reports are published at least once per week. The department shall

22   collaborate with local boards of public health, school districts, and other stakeholders to ensure

23   that the critical data is accessible to the public and decision makers. At the request of a local

24   board of public health or local public health director, the department shall, to the best of its

25   ability, provide localized data specific to the municipality requesting the data.

26   The department shall ensure that each reporting method is also able to provide immediate

27   guidance to those who report a positive test, including instructions for following up with medical

28   providers, ways to access treatments for the illness in question, and any addition guidance that

29   may be needed for high-risk persons. Simplified reporting instructions for positive test results

30   shall be provided for at-home tests distributed by the department of public health, department of

31   elementary and secondary education, or other state agency, and posted on the mass.gov website.