

HOUSE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Ruth B. Balser

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 pertaining to people with mental illness in hospital emergency rooms.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Ruth B. Balser

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

12th Middlesex

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

AN ACT PERTAINING TO PEOPLE WITH MENTAL ILLNESS IN HOSPITAL EMERGENCY ROOMS.

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 25A of said chapter 111 of the General Laws, as so appearing in
2 the 2006 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the word “commonwealth”, in
3 line 33, the following words: -

4 , including data analysis relating to the use of behavioral restraint in certified emergency
5 care units of facilities as defined in section 70E of chapter 111.
6

7 SECTION 2. Subsection (a) of section 2 of chapter 118G, as so appearing, is hereby
8 amended by inserting after the word “services ” the following words:-

9 , including data on the use of behavioral restraint in certified emergency care units of
10 facilities as defined in section 70E of chapter 111.
11

12 SECTION 3. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the
13 commissioner of the department of mental health and the commissioner of the department of
14 public health shall submit a report semiannually on the progress of their joint working group on
15 emergency room treatment for people with behavioral health disorders to the joint committee on
16 mental health and substance abuse, the joint committee on public health and the house and senate
17 clerk.