

HOUSE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Sean Garballey

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 ORDERING A STUDY OF HOME HEALTH SERVICE RATE CUTS.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Sean Garballey	23rd Middlesex

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

AN ACT ORDERING A STUDY OF HOME HEALTH SERVICE RATE CUTS.

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.

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3 Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, by no later than July 31, 2009, the executive
4 office of health and human services shall procure a full review of the decrease in rate of payment for
5 skilled health services rendered to home health patients that was effective December 1, 2008. Said
6 study shall analyze: 1. Background data, including cost analysis that supports the rate cut; 2. The effect
7 of the rate cut on patients receiving care and agencies that administer that care; 3. The cost and
8 duration for home health visits lasting 60 or more consecutive days and; 4. The short-term versus long-
9 term cost-effectiveness of this amendment.

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11 SECTION 2

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13 Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, there shall be a special study commission to
14 review the findings of the report commissioned in Section 1 of this Act. Said commission shall be
15 comprised of the House and Senate Chairs of the Joint Committee on Elder Affairs or their designees,
16 the House and Senate Chairs of the Joint Committee on Health Care Financing or their designees, the
17 Chair for the House Committee on Ways & Means or their designee, the Senate Chair on Ways & Means
18 or their designee, the Commissioner of the Division of Health Care Finance & Policy or their designee
19 and one representative selected by each of the following: The Home Care Alliance of Massachusetts and
20 the Massachusetts Chapter of the American Association of Retired Persons. Further, at least one
21 representative in addition to the commission members specified in this act will be a visiting nurse from a
22 certified home health agency.

23

24 SECTION 3

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26 Said commission shall convene within 10 days after submission of said study to the Legislature in order
27 to review said findings; and further, shall meet monthly with the intention of incorporating findings into
28 a recommendation for the Legislature. Said Commission shall submit said recommendations by no later
29 than October 1st, 2009.

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