

**SENATE . . . . . No.**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

**Robert A. O'Leary**

*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 Instructing DPH to Conduct a Study of Community Health Trends .

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Robert A. O'Leary

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Cape and Islands

# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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In the Year Two Thousand and Nine  
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## AN ACT INSTRUCTING DPH TO CONDUCT A STUDY OF COMMUNITY HEALTH TRENDS .

*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. Notwithstanding the provisions of any general or special law to the contrary, the  
2 department of public health shall conduct a study of the commonwealth's community hospitals, with a  
3 particular focus on outmigration of patients and related trends, including but not limited to an  
4 examination of observed effects and their potential causes with respect to the following:
- 5 (1) The impact on individual community hospitals caused by the opening of additional health care  
6 services by providers within the primary service areas of such community hospital, in terms of changes  
7 in the number and types of procedures performed and changes in revenues;
- 8 (2) Recruitment and retention of personnel; and
- 9 (3) Changes in payer mix.
- 10 The department shall issue a report summarizing its findings and making recommendations with respect  
11 to strengthening community hospitals not later than December 31, 2009, and shall file such report with  
12 the joint committee on health care financing.