

Justification and House 1097 as filed.

Justification for HB 1097

An Act to Establish a Community Hospital Fund for Computerized Physician Order Entry

The proposed legislation would address the unfunded mandate under Chapter 305 of the Acts of 2008, the cost containment legislation, by supporting community hospitals in need of assistance with CPOE implementation through the establishment of a new CPOE Community Hospital fund via an existing funding source – the surplus contained in the Health Safety Net Fund and prioritizes funding from the E-Health Institute. Community hospitals have tremendous infrastructure needs and less access to capital. Lower reimbursement rates and new requirements imposed by payers further increase the strain on community hospitals – and particularly in the current economy. In addition, other hospital systems either already have made significant investment and progress in these areas and/or have more access to funding sources going forward. CPOE is necessary for health care providers -- both to be able to provide quality health care, and function in the most efficient and cost effective manner. Community hospitals need assistance to be able to implement what has become a necessary part of operating in today's health care environment.

HOUSE No. 1097

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:
Rosemary Sandlin

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 establish a community hospital fund for computerized physician order entry .

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Rosemary Sandlin	3rd Hampden

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A COMMUNITY HOSPITAL FUND FOR COMPUTERIZED PHYSICIAN ORDER ENTRY.

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

This act will establish a new Computerized Physician Order Entry Community Hospital fund via existing funding sources, as follows:

Notwithstanding any general or special law or regulation to the contrary, fifty percent of the surplus, if any, contained in the health safety net fund established pursuant to chapter 116G, section 36, shall be transferred to a computerized physician order entry community hospital fund to be administered by the division of health care finance and policy. The division shall develop grant award criteria for the purpose of funding physician CPOE education and training activities in the community hospital setting. Grant applicants shall file CPOE implementation plans with the division detailing their project and estimated expenses.

This act will prioritize grants from the existing E-Health Institute Fund for CPOE implementation on community hospitals:

Notwithstanding any general law or special regulation to the contrary, the greater of \$5,000,000 or thirty percent of the funds available to the e-health institute fund, established pursuant to section 4 of chapter 305 of the acts of 2008, shall be expended to provide grants for the implementation of computerized physician order entry systems in community hospitals.