

Justification and Senate 885 as filed.

Justification for SB 885

An Act Instructing DPH to Conduct a Study of Community Health Trends

The proposed legislation authorizes DPH to conduct a study of community hospitals and potential destabilizing forces that may be impacting them. It also calls for DPH to make recommendations for strengthening these important community health care resources.

SENATE No. 885

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:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Robert A. O'Leary	Cape and Islands
Bruce E. Tarr	First Essex and Middlesex

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

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:

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding the provisions of any general or special law to the contrary, the department of public health shall conduct a study of the commonwealth's community hospitals, with a particular focus on outmigration of patients and related trends, including but not limited to an examination of observed effects and their potential causes with respect to the following:

- (1) The impact on individual community hospitals caused by the opening of additional health care services by providers within the primary service areas of such community hospital, in terms of changes in the number and types of procedures performed and changes in revenues;
- (2) Recruitment and retention of personnel; and

(3) Changes in payer mix.

The department shall issue a report summarizing its findings and making recommendations with respect to strengthening community hospitals not later than December 31, 2009, and shall file such report with the joint committee on health care financing.