

## **House 1516**

### **An Act requiring ambulatory Surgicenters and clinical laboratories to serve MassHealth enrollees**

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any general or special law or regulation to the contrary, the department of public health shall require as a condition of licensure of ambulatory surgery centers and clinical laboratories that such entities contract with the executive office of health and human services to participate as providers of MassHealth.

Sponsor – Representative Kathi-Anne Reinstein

Co-sponsors: Representative Demetrius J. Atsalis, Representative Timothy R. Madden, and Senator Katherine Clark

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#### **Justification for House 1516**

The proposed legislation would ensure that the other key components of the outpatient health care delivery system serve MassHealth enrollees. ASCs and clinical laboratories provide many of the same outpatient services typically provided by hospitals, but frequently serve only Medicare beneficiaries and private pay patients. MassHealth enrollees can be served on a cost effective basis in alternative settings to hospitals for a wide variety of services, benefiting the MassHealth program. Moreover, MassHealth enrollees deserve a broad array of choices of locations from which to obtain their outpatient care. In addition, in order to remain financially sound, hospitals need to serve a diversified patient base in terms of the proportion of government to private health care beneficiaries. As ASCs and commercial labs provide more and more hospital level services, hospitals are serving a disproportionate number of MassHealth beneficiaries. The proposed legislation levels the playing field, reduces MassHealth expenditures, increases consumer options and strengthens community hospitals.