

## **Senate 542**

### **An Act relative to the composition of the health care quality and cost council**

SECTION 1. Section 16K of Chapter 6A of the General Laws is hereby amended in subsection (b) by striking in the first sentence the word 16 and inserting in its place thereof the word 17 and shall be further amended in the same subsection by inserting after the phrase, and 1 representative of a non-governmental purchaser of health insurance. The following:-- and 1 representative of a not for profit community hospital recommended by the board of directors of the Massachusetts Council of Community Hospitals.

Sponsor – Senator Marc R. Pacheco

Co-sponsors – Senator Katherine Clark, Senator Karen E. Spilka, and Senator Daniel Wolf

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#### **Justification for Senate 542**

The movement to a lower cost provider delivery model assumes that community hospitals will play an important role in supporting the structures of emerging new relationships between providers and health plans as well as support new methods of payment. Unfortunately, the community system is not uniformly financially robust, badly undercapitalized and very vulnerable to rapid changes in health care policy and inappropriate financial incentives. Past attempts to engage in health planning contributed to the poor financial positioning of community hospitals today. Having a voice on this important committee will increase the probability that emerging health planning policy will have been shaped by a better understanding of how community medicine is delivered today and the implications of any change. The representative of community hospitals would hopefully be able to contribute ideas based on anticipating problem areas and proposing alternative approaches to overcoming these obstacles.