

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 02349**

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

*Patricia A. Haddad*

*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 relative to premature infant hospital discharge and quality improvement.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Patricia A. Haddad</i>	<i>5th Bristol</i>
<i>Nick Collins</i>	<i>4th Suffolk</i>
<i>Edward Copping</i>	<i>10th Suffolk</i>
<i>George N. Peterson, Jr.</i>	<i>9th Worcester</i>
<i>Michael J. Rodrigues</i>	<i>First Bristol and Plymouth</i>

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 02349

By Ms. Haddad of Somerset, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2349) of Patricia A. Haddad and others relative to premature infant hospital discharge and quality improvement. Public Health.

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Eleven

An Act relative to premature infant hospital discharge and quality improvement.

*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. Chapter 111 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 67C  
2 the following new section: -  
3 Section 67C ½. (a) the department, in consultation with statewide organizations focused on  
4 improved premature infant healthcare, shall develop standardized procedures for hospital  
5 discharge and follow up care for premature infants born less than 37 weeks gestational age and  
6 shall ensure standardized and coordinated processes are followed as premature infants leave the  
7 hospital from either a well baby nursery, step down or transitional nursery or neonatal intensive  
8 care unit and transition to follow-up care by a health care or homecare provider; provided  
9 further, hospitals serving infants eligible for medical assistance and child health assistance shall  
10 report to the department the causes and incidence of all re-hospitalizations of infants that were  
11 born premature at less than 37 weeks gestational age and who are within their first 6 months of

12 life. Hospitals shall annually report to the department re-hospitalizations and costs for all infants  
13 less than 37 weeks gestational age and the reason for readmission, The department shall utilize  
14 guidance, if available from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' Neonatal Outcomes  
15 Improvement Project, to implement programs to improve new born outcomes, reduce newborn  
16 health costs and establish ongoing quality improvement for newborns, including hospital  
17 discharge and follow-up care.

18 (b) the department shall submit an annual report to the general court on or before October 1 that  
19 includes: the progress in implementing the provisions of this section; the incidence and cause of  
20 re-hospitalizations of infants born premature at less than 37 weeks gestational age within their  
21 first 6 months of life; and make recommendations to improve newborn outcomes and ensure  
22 ongoing health quality improvement, including technological needs to improve surveillance of  
23 premature infants as they are discharged from the hospital and transition to a health care  
24 provider.