

HOUSE No. 3621

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Michael S. Day, (BY REQUEST)

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 adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act to encourage, and improve the level of availability of physicians.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Vincent L. Dixon</i>	<i>60 Lake Street Unit N Winchester Massachusetts 01890</i>	<i>1/20/2023</i>

HOUSE No. 3621

By Representative Day of Stoneham (by request), a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3621) of Vincent L. Dixon for legislation to encourage, and improve the level of availability of physicians. Public Health.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court
(2023-2024)**

An Act to encourage, and improve the level of availability of physicians.

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. The Massachusetts General Laws are hereby amended by inserting the
2 following new chapter:

3 PURPOSE – A variety of circumstances, having developed in recent years, have led to
4 the serious erosion of staffing levels, among physicians, and other senior level health care
5 workers. These circumstances have included the migration of many such workers, into other
6 fields; the retirement of many, and other factors including pressure on work loads, and
7 challenged compensation levels; leading to what, in effect, is a health care system emergency,
8 and crisis.

9 Recent events, particularly the COVID-19 Pandemic, and other factors, have led to the
10 death of many physicians, and other senior health care workers, further adding to the significant
11 shortage of such staff.

12 In addition, profound changes in medical treatment modalities, significant lengthening of
13 life spans, of many; and newer recognized diseases, and conditions, have meant that there are
14 some further increases, in the need for physicians, and other senior level related health care
15 workers.

16 Significantly, Massachusetts has become a world leader in medicine, and health care, and
17 attracts substantial numbers of patients, from across The United States and the World.

18 Thus, it has become clear that a shortage of physicians, and other senior level related
19 health care workers, is worsening, and is likely to worsen further; adding to crisis type risks, and
20 actual crisis circumstances, in the health care system of our Commonwealth; over a span of some
21 years, going forward. This statute has as its purpose, to address, and help to remedy, these
22 shortages; and provide additional mechanisms, by which individuals, and institutions, can
23 recruit, train, employ, and otherwise stabilize, and seek to improve the physicians, and senior
24 level health care work force.

25 SECTION 2 – This legislation authorizes the Executive Office of Health and Human
26 Services, and under it, the Department of Public Health, to create a Physicians Scholarship
27 Program.

28 2a.) This Physicians Scholarship Program (PSP), shall provide a mechanism for all
29 qualified students, who wish to enroll in an accredited Medical Physician Education Program,
30 operated within The Commonwealth of Massachusetts, to receive specific assistance in obtaining
31 grant, and/or scholarship aid, to compensate their educational, and related costs, as long as they
32 meet certain specified standards.

33 2b.) Those students receiving assistance through the Physicians Scholarship Program
34 (PSP), shall attend at least half-time, and preferably full-time, during their academic, and clinical
35 training.

36 2c.) Such eligible students, shall, upon graduation, commit to no less than four (4) years
37 of full-time service, in a qualified medical institution, and/or health care facility, within the
38 boundaries of Massachusetts, as may be further defined.

39 SECTION 3 – All such eligible Physicians Scholarship Program (PSP) students, shall
40 receive up to ten (10) years of complete tuition compensation, during their studies in an
41 accredited Physician Medical School Degree Program.

42 3a.) The Department of Public Health, is authorized to develop such program, and may,
43 as needed, intersect with other agencies of the Commonwealth, to develop additional related
44 standards.

45 3b.) Detailed records, for students in the program, shall be kept, processed, analyzed, and
46 further reported, together with useful recommendations, for the refinement of the program. This
47 public report, shall be done on a yearly basis.