

SENATE No. 1275

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

John C. Velis

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 establishing a commission to study the availability of a continuum of care for persons.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

John C. Velis

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Hampden and Hampshire

SENATE No. 1275

By Mr. Velis, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1275) of John C. Velis for legislation establishing a commission to study the availability of a continuum of care for persons with substance use disorder. Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. 1316 OF 2021-2022.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act establishing a commission to study the availability of a continuum of care for persons.

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. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, there shall be a
2 commission established pursuant to section 2A of chapter 4 of the General Laws to study the
3 availability of a continuum of care for persons with substance use disorder. The commission
4 shall: (i) review the availability of detoxification services, clinical stabilization services,
5 transitional support services, emergency care services, residential recovery home services, and
6 outpatient treatment including medication assisted treatment and (ii) make an assessment of what
7 the appropriate capacity should be for each level of care to allow individuals to efficiently access
8 each level of care as clinically necessary.

9 The commission shall consist of: the house and senate chairs of the committee on mental
10 health, substance use and recovery, who shall serve as co-chairs; a member appointed by the

11 speaker of the house of representatives; a member appointed by the senate president; the
12 minority leader of the house, or a designee; the minority leader of the senate, or a designee; the
13 secretary of the office of health and human services, or a designee; the assistant secretary for
14 Masshealth; the commissioner of the department of public health, or a designee; the
15 commissioner of the department of mental health, or a designee; the commissioner of the
16 division of insurance, or a designee; and one from each of the following: Association for
17 Behavioral Healthcare, Inc.; Massachusetts Organization for Addiction Recovery; the
18 Massachusetts Health & Hospital Association; the Massachusetts Medical Society; Recovery
19 Homes Collaborative; Learn to Cope; the Grayken Center; the Massachusetts Association of
20 Health Plans; and Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Massachusetts.

21 Annually, not later than March 1, the commission shall file a report with the house and
22 senate clerks on its activities and any recommendations. The commission shall monitor the
23 implementation of its recommendations.