

By Mr. Edward L. Burke, a petition (accompanied by resolve, Senate, No. 1703) of Edward L. Burke and Argeo Paul Cellucci that provision be made for an investigation and study by a special commission relative to closing acute care hospitals. Health Care.

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Eighty-Nine.

RESOLVE PROVIDING FOR AN INVESTIGATION AND STUDY BY A SPECIAL COMMISSION RELATIVE TO CLOSING ACUTE CARE HOSPITALS.

1 *Whereas*, There are too many acute care hospitals, with too  
2 many empty beds, a large majority of them operating in finan-  
3 cial deficit, and whereas the Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
4 should be encouraging more efficient use of health care services.

5 *Resolved*, That a special commission be established to examine  
6 and make recommendations relative to the need for certain  
7 hospital closings, mergers and realignments.

8 The Commission shall consist of seven members to be  
9 appointed by the Governor. The Commission shall consist of: the  
10 commissioner of public health, a representative of the Massachu-  
11 setts Business Roundtable, a representative of the Life Insurance  
12 Association of Massachusetts, the president of Blue Cross/ Blue  
13 Shield or his designee, the president of Massachusetts Hospital  
14 Association or his designee, a representative of a consumer  
15 organization having health care interest, a representative of a  
16 Union or the State Labor Council.

17 The Commission shall establish an inpatient hospital plan for  
18 the Commonwealth that establishes geographically accessible  
19 patient care services, efficient use of facilities, identification of  
20 necessary emergency room sites and coronary care intervention  
21 sites. The Commission will assure in its recommendations that  
22 necessary available services will be provided within reasonable dis-  
23 tances for all citizens of the Commonwealth. The Commission will  
24 assure the sufficient tertiary services exist. The Commission shall

25 make recommendations as to which hospitals shall close, merge  
26 or realign.

27 The Commission may hold public hearings, gather pertinent  
28 information and make written recommendations, by majority  
29 vote, to the General Court not later than October 1, 1989.

30 The recommendation will become effective unless modified or  
31 rescinded by the legislature within sixty days or receipt.