

By Mr. Barrett, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 429) of Michael J. Barrett, Christopher J. Hodgkins, John E. McDonough, Barbara Hildt, Joseph K. Mackey and other members of the House of Representatives for legislation to provide for an investigation of the impact of Medicare hospital reimbursement on home health agencies. Health Care.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR AN INVESTIGATION OF THE IMPACT OF MEDICARE HOSPITAL REIMBURSEMENT ON HOME HEALTH AGENCIES.

1 *Whereas*, Medicare's hospital reimbursement system, Diagno-
2 sis Related Groups or DRGs, is resulting in beneficiaries being
3 discharged from hospitals quicker and sicker.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 The Department of Public Health is hereby authorized and
2 directed to investigate the impact of Medicare reimbursements of
3 hospitals on the operation of home health agencies in the
4 commonwealth. The department shall examine increases in
5 referrals of beneficiaries to home health agencies, the agencies'
6 capacities to provide more intensive care and services, and
7 Medicare patients' readmission rates to hospitals. The department
8 shall analyze whether the increased volume of Medicare patients
9 is having an adverse financial impact on home health agencies.

10 The department shall report its findings and recommendations
11 to the General Court by January 1, 1988.

