

HOUSE No. 566

By Mr. Constantino of Clinton, petition of William Constantino, Jr., and Thomas P. White that the Department of Public Health be directed to convert vacant acute care hospital beds to nursing home beds. Health Care.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT DIRECTING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH TO AUTHORIZE VACANT ACUTE CARE HOSPITAL BEDS TO CONVERTED TO NURSING HOME BEDS FOR CERTAIN PERIODS.

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

1 Chapter 111 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting
2 after section 53B the following section: —
3 Section 53C. The department, in its classification procedure
4 under section fifty-three, may adopt a so-called “swing-bed”
5 concept to permit the utilization of vacant acute care hospital beds
6 which may exist in any part of the commonwealth on a temporary
7 basis as nursing home beds. The department shall promulgate,
8 in conjunction with the Massachusetts Hospital Association, such
9 rules and regulations necessary to implement the concept;
10 provided, however, that no such rule or regulation of the
11 department promulgated under this section, shall require the
12 delicensing of any such bed in either an acute care hospital or a
13 nursing home.

