HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 2641 FILED ON: 1/20/2011

HOUSE . . . . . No. 2349

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Patricia A. Haddad

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 passage of the accompanying:

An Act relative to premature infant hospital discharge and quality improvement.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Patricia A. Haddad	*5th Bristol*
Nick Collins	*4th Suffolk*
Edward F. Coppinger	*10th Suffolk*
George N. Peterson, Jr.	*9th Worcester*
Michael J. Rodrigues	
	☐ *[District]*
	☐

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HOUSE . . . . . No. 2349

By Ms. Haddad of Somerset, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2349) of Patricia A. Haddad and others relative to premature infant hospital discharge and quality improvement. Public Health.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

An Act relative to premature infant hospital discharge and quality improvement.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 111 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 67C the following new section: -

Section 67C ½. (a) the department, in consultation with statewide organizations focused on improved premature infant healthcare, shall develop standardized procedures for hospital discharge and follow up care for premature infants born less than 37 weeks gestational age and shall ensure standardized and coordinated processes are followed as premature infants leave the hospital from either a well baby nursery, step down or transitional nursery or neonatal intensive care unit and transition to follow-up care by a health care or homecare provider; provided further, hospitals serving infants eligible for medical assistance and child health assistance shall report to the department the causes and incidence of all re-hospitalizations of infants that were born premature at less than 37 weeks gestational age and who are within their first 6 months of life. Hospitals shall annually report to the department re-hospitalizations and costs for all infants less than 37 weeks gestational age and the reason for readmission, The department shall utilize guidance, if available from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' Neonatal Outcomes Improvement Project, to implement programs to improve new born outcomes, reduce newborn health costs and establish ongoing quality improvement for newborns, including hospital discharge and follow-up care.

(b) the department shall submit an annual report to the general court on or before October 1that includes: the progress in implementing the provisions of this section; the incidence and cause of re-hospitalizations of infants born premature at less than 37 weeks gestational age within their first 6 months of life; and make recommendations to improve newborn outcomes and ensure ongoing health quality improvement, including technological needs to improve surveillance of premature infants as they are discharged from the hospital and transition to a health care provider.