

**ANAMASS Legislative Agenda**

2025-2026

194th General Court**Priority Agenda Items****Improving Nursing Workforce Environments and Staffing****1. S1572/H766 An Act relative to acute hospital and nursing home governance**

An Act relative to acute hospital governance (AKA Nurses on Boards)

<https://malegislature.gov/Bills/194/S1572> Sponsor: Senator [Joan B. Lovely](#)

An Act relative to acute hospital and nursing home governance

<https://malegislature.gov/Bills/194/H766> Sponsors: Reps. [Paul J. Donato](#) & [John Francis Moran](#)

Status: 2/27/25 S1572 Referred to [Joint Committee on Public Health](#)
H766 Referred to [Joint Committee on Aging and Independence](#)
9/16/2025 Hearing scheduled for 9/16/2025 [Joint Committee on Aging and Independence](#)

Summary: SECTION 1. Section 51 of Chapter 111 is hereby amended by adding at the end thereof the following new paragraph: All acute-care hospitals as defined in section twenty-five B, shall have a registered nurse holding a current unencumbered license from the board of registration in nursing as a sitting and voting member of the governing entity responsible for developing the organization's strategic plan, structure, systems, policies and programs.

[In addition to above] All nursing homes shall have a registered nurse holding a current unencumbered license from the board of registration in nursing as a **sitting and voting member of the governing entity** responsible for developing the organization's strategic plan, structure, systems, policies and programs.

Recommended Position: SUPPORTTo read the 9/16/2025 written testimony for H766, please click [HERE](#)To view the 9/16/2025 verbal testimony for H766, please click [HERE](#)**2. S1543/H2397 An Act establishing a nursing workforce center**<https://malegislature.gov/Bills/194/S1543> & <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/194/H2397>

Sponsors: Senators [Cindy F. Friedman](#) & [Joanne M. Comerford](#); Representatives [Marjorie C. Decker](#), [Daniel Cahill](#), & [John Francis Moran](#)

Status: 2/27/25 Referred to Joint Committee on Public Health
6/23/2025 Hearing Held

Summary: The purpose of the nursing workforce center shall be to gather data, research and provide analysis to advise policy leaders on how to address the current and future nursing workforce needs of nurses and others who support nursing care and to provide recommendations to advance nursing science and practice in the commonwealth. Codifies existing Nursing Council for Workforce Stability <https://www.ncwsma.org/>.

Recommended Position: SUPPORT

To read the 6/23/2025 written testimony please click [HERE](#)

To view the 6/23/2025 verbal testimony, please click [HERE](#)

3. H.2655/S.1718 Workplace Violence: An Act requiring health care employers to develop and implement programs to prevent workplace violence.

<https://malegislature.gov/Bills/194/H2655> & <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/194/S1718>

Sponsors: Senators Joan B. Lovely, Vanna Howard, Hannah Kane & Paul W. Mark, Representative John J. Lawn, Jr. & James K. Hawkins

Background: The ANAMASS Health Policy Committee and BOD has for the past four legislative sessions supported legislation requiring health care employers to develop and implement programs to prevent workplace violence. There have been multiple bills presented, which the HPC has done extensive comparisons of, in particular Victoria Grimes-Holsinger and Ekta Srinivasa, and written testimony in support of specific aspects of and lobbied for the inclusion of language related to psychological violence/bullying. The bill filed this year is a compromise bill which the sponsors of the previous bills have agreed upon.

Proposed changes to include and/or create legislative and regulatory language which **expands the definition of workplace violence to include psychological assaults such as bullying, acts of psychological aggression, lateral violence, racism, etc.**

Current Bill Status:

2/2025 Referred to Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security
4/9/2025 Hearing Held

Recommended Position: Support with additional proposed language below; provide recommendations as per #EndNurseAbuse Resource Guide and the ANA Bullying infographic

To read 4/9/2025 ANAMASS written Testimony: Please click [HERE](#)

To read/view previous testimonies supporting bills to end workplace violence, please visit <https://www.anamass.org/page/ANAMASSTestimonies>

4. S1482/H2442 An Act protecting patients and health care workers from exposure to surgical smoke

<https://malegislature.gov/Bills/194/S1482> & <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/194/H2442>

Sponsors: Senator [Joanne M. Comerford](#) & Representative [James K. Hawkins](#)

Summary: Surgical Smoke generated from the cauterization or dissection of tissue during surgical procedures contains carcinogenic and mutagenic cells and can include 150 hazardous chemicals, 16 of which are on the EPA Priority Pollutant List. The smoke condensate from one gram of tissue is the equivalent of up to six unfiltered cigarettes and even N-95 masks do not filter out all particulates present in surgical smoke. To date, 13 other states have passed laws addressing surgical smoke. This bill would require hospitals and ambulatory surgical centers (MSCs) to adopt and implement to ensure the elimination of surgical smoke by use of a smoke-evacuation system for each procedure that generates surgical smoke.

Status:

Referred to	Joint Committee on Public Health
6/11/25	Hearing Held
7/10/25	S1482 Reported Favorably by committee and referred to Senate Ways and Means
10/9/2025	H2442 Reporting date extended to 10/9/2025

Recommended Position: **Support** with recommendations to be consistent with AORN statutory language.

Click [HERE](#) to download 2025 testimony

Click [HERE](#) to download Surgical Smoke Fact Sheet

Click [HERE](#) to watch ANAMASS verbal testimony

To read/view previous testimonies supporting bills to protect patients and healthcare workers from surgical smoke, please visit <https://www.anamass.org/page/ANAMASSTestimonies>

5. S1627 An Act establishing a commission on quality patient outcomes and nurse staffing

<https://malegislature.gov/Bills/194/S1627>

Sponsor: Senator [Bruce E. Tarr](#)

Status:

2/27/25	Referred to	Joint Committee on Public Health
6/23/25	Hearing Scheduled	

Summary: Creates a 17-member bipartisan Commission involving multiple stakeholders to review and make recommendations regarding best nurse staffing practices designed to improve the patient care environment, quality outcomes, and nurse satisfaction. locates the commission within, but not subject to the control of the Executive Office of Health and Human Services; articulates the qualifications and

terms of commission members; identifies several areas of examination for the Commission relative to nurse staffing levels; requires the commission to file an annual report with the legislature by March 1.

Recommended Position: Support

To view verbal testimony, please click [HERE](#)

For a copy of previous testimony please click [HERE](#)

Improving the Pipeline

6. S850/H2544 - An Act relative to nursing career pathways in long term care

<https://malegislature.gov/Bills/194/S850> & <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/194/H2554>

Sponsors: Sen. Julian A.Cyr (D) Rep. [Thomas M. Stanley](#)

Status:	2/27/25	Referred to Joint Committee on Public Health
	6/16/2025	Hearing Scheduled
	9/11/25	Reporting date extended to 10/21/25

Summary: Notwithstanding any law or regulation to the contrary, Section 179 of Chapter 77 of the Acts of 2023 is amended by adding after “provided further, that not less than \$1,000,000 shall be expended for the establishment of a career pathway program to support certified nurses’ aides, home health aides, homemakers and other entry-level workers in long-term care facilities to become licensed practical nurses” the following: “or registered nurses, or for licensed practical nurses in long term care facilities to become registered nurses; provided further that students from the commonwealth who: (i) are enrolled in and pursuing a program of higher education at a public community college in the commonwealth or (ii) a Practical Nursing Program at a Career/Vocational Technical Education School shall be eligible for this career pathway financial assistance.” Citations: SES 2023:77:179

Recommended Position: Support

7. H2381- An Act relative to creating accessible CNA training

<https://malegislature.gov/Bills/194/H2381>

Sponsor: Rep. Tackey Chan (D)

Summary: Expands CNA training to be delivered in languages other than English, including, but not limited to, Spanish, Chinese and Haitian Creole; provided further that the department shall determine in which languages the training shall be offered.”

Citations: MGL 111:72W

Recommended Position: Support

8. S2477/H3866 An Act relative to waiving education requirements for skilled veterans to be LPNs

<https://malegislature.gov/Bills/194/S2477> & <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/194/H3866>

Sponsor: Sen. Jason M. Lewis and Rep. Kate Lipper-Garabedian

Status: Referred to [Joint Committee on Veterans and Federal Affairs](#)

Summary: Amends Section 74A of chapter 112 of the General Laws (Relative to Board of Nursing licensure of LPN's) to allow individuals who have satisfactorily completed medical training offered through the military to sit for LPN licensure by examination.

Citations: MGL 112:74A

Recommended Position: Support

Improving the Workforce Environment

9. SD1535/H2396 An Act relative to safe patient handling and mobility in certain health facilities

Sponsors: Senators Paul R. Feeney & Michael D. Brady and Representatives Marjorie C. Decker, Susannah M. Whipps, Rodney M. Elliott, Colleen M. Garry, Paul R. Feeney, Thomas M. Stanley, Vanna Howard, Manny Cruz, & Adrienne Pusateri Ramos

Status: Referred to [Joint Committee on Public Health](#)

Hearing Held 6/23/2025

9/11/25 Reporting date extended to Tuesday, October 21, 2025

Summary: By December 1, 2025, the governing body of a hospital or the quality assurance committee of a nursing home shall adopt and ensure implementation of a safe patient handling and mobility program to identify, assess, and develop strategies to control risk of injury to patients and direct caregivers associated with the lifting, transferring, repositioning, or movement of a patient or equipment, such that manual lifting or transfer of patients is minimized in all cases and eliminated when feasible and manual patient handling or movement of all or most of a patient's weight is restricted to emergency, life-threatening, or otherwise exception circumstances. Within six months of the date of enactment, each health care facility shall establish a safe patient handling and mobility committee through the creation of a new committee or by assigning the functions of a safe patient handling committee to an existing committee. The purpose of the committee is to design and recommend the process for implementing a safe patient handling and mobility program and to oversee the implementation of the program. At least half the members of the safe patient handling committee shall be non-managerial employees who provide direct care to patients and shall include but not be limited to nurses, certified nursing assistants, physical therapists, occupational therapists, maintenance staff and infection control employees.

Recommended Position: Support consistent with recommendations found at

<https://www.nursingworld.org/practice-policy/work-environment/health-safety/safe-patient-handling/>

To view 6/23/2025 written testimony, please click [HERE](#)

To read/view previous testimonies supporting safe patient handling, please visit <https://www.anamass.org/page/ANAMASSTestimonies>

10. **S 485 An Act to establish safe staffing levels at skilled nursing facilities**

<https://malegislature.gov/Bills/194/S485>

Sponsor: Senator [Mark C. Montigny](#)

Status: 2/27/25 S485 Referred to [Joint Committee on Aging and Independence](#)
9/16/2025 Hearing scheduled for 9/16/2025 [Joint Committee on Aging and Independence](#)

Summary: The department of public health shall establish minimum staffing requirements at skilled nursing care facilities and for all level I, II and III long-term care facilities as defined in 105 CMR 150.001. Working with 1199SEIU and other appropriate stakeholders, the department shall develop amendments to the existing nursing services regulations contained in 105 CMR 150.007 that ensure these facilities employ an adequate number of nurses, certified nurse assistants, and other staff to both meet all resident needs and ensure that sufficient nursing staff with the appropriate competencies is working at any given time to assure resident safety and attain or maintain the highest practicable physical, mental, and psychosocial well-being of each resident, as determined by resident assessments and individual plans of care. Said **amended regulations shall include specific standards, including but not limited to, a minimum 4.1 hours of care per patient per day** as well as direct-care staff-to-resident ratios to ensure consistent delivery of quality care in a safe and sanitary facility. The department shall issue public recommendations on these issues no later than six months following final passage of this act.

Recommended Position: Support with Recommendations re: inclusion of ANA Safe Staffing Language and recommendations from the ANA Nurse Staffing Task Force

<https://www.nursingworld.org/practice-policy/nurse-staffing/nurse-staffing-task-force/>

<https://www.nursingworld.org/practice-policy/nurse-staffing/nurse-staffing-crisis/>

<https://www.nursingworld.org/practice-policy/nurse-staffing/nurse-staffing-advocacy>

To read/view previous testimonies supporting safe staffing levels at skilled nursing facilities, please visit <https://www.anamass.org/page/ANAMASSTestimonies>

Access to Primary Care/Advanced Practice Nurses

11. **S867/H2537 - An Act relative to primary care access/primary care for you**

<https://malegislature.gov/Bills/194/S867> & <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/194/H2537>

Sponsors: Sen. Cindy Friedman (D), [Rebecca L. Rausch](#), [Joanne M. Comerford](#) and Reps. [Greg Schwartz](#), [Patrick Joseph Kearney](#), [Mike Connolly](#), [Mark D. Sylvia](#), [James Arena-DeRosa](#) & [Lindsay N. Sabadosa](#)

Status: Referred to Joint Committee on Health Care Financing
5/12/25 Hearing held
6/16/2025 Bill reported favorably by committee and referred to the committee
on Senate Ways and Means

Recommended Position: Support congruent with recommendations from Massachusetts Coalition of Nurse Practitioners

Summary: Under Health Policy Commission creates a primary care board to: (i) study primary care access, delivery and payment in the commonwealth; (ii) develop and issue recommendations to stabilize and strengthen the primary care system and the increase of recruitment and retention in the primary care workforce; and (iii) increase the financial investment in and patient access to primary care across the commonwealth. Includes representative from MCNP.

12. **S697/H1127- An Act to increase access to nurse-midwifery services** <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/194/S697> & <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/194/H1127>

Sponsors: Senator Brendan P. Crighton and Representatives Marjorie C. Decker, Brandy Fluker Oakley, Susannah M. Whipps, Samantha Montañó, Lindsay N. Sabadosa & Mindy Domb

Status: Referred to Joint Committee on Financial Services

Recommended Position: Support Consistent with Federal Improving Care and Access to Nurses (ICAN) Act (H. 1317/S. 575) which modifies Social Security/Code of Federal Regulations to allow Nurse Practitioners to bill for services in the same manner as physicians may bill for services in accordance with.....services furnished by a nurse practitioner shall be payable at the physician fee schedule and Title III. Removal of barriers to practice on certified nurse-midwives.

Summary: Any contract between a subscriber and the corporation under an individual or group hospital service plan which is delivered, issued or renewed in the commonwealth shall provide as a benefit to all individual subscribers and members within the commonwealth and to all group members having a principal place of employment within the commonwealth for services rendered by a certified nurse midwife designated to engage in the practice of nurse-midwifery by the board of registration in nursing pursuant to section 80C of chapter 112, and the payment rate for a service provided by a certified nurse-midwife that is within the scope of the certified nurse-midwife's authorization to practice shall be equal to the payment rate for the same service if performed by a physician. An insurer may not reduce the reimbursement paid to a licensed physician in order to comply with this section.

Citations: MGL 112:80C, MGL 175:47E, MGL 176A, MGL 176B:4G, MGL 176G:4, MGL 32A

Other

13. **HB 4357** **An Act relative to toxic free kids.**

<https://malegislature.gov/Bills/194/H4357>

Sponsors: Senator Joanne M. Comerford & Representative James K. Hawkins

Recommended Position: Support

The **Toxic Free Kids Act** is a legislative initiative in Massachusetts aimed at reducing toxic chemicals in children's products. It seeks to protect children from early life exposures to harmful substances like PFAS, which are known to cause cancer, impact brain development, and disrupt hormones. The Act establishes a regulatory framework requiring manufacturers to notify the Department of Environmental Protection if their products contain chemicals from a "chemicals of concern" list or a "high priority chemicals" list. Manufacturers must either remove or substitute these chemicals with safer alternatives, especially in products designed for children under 3 years old or those that can be placed in a child's mouth. The Act also includes enforcement mechanisms, such as potential civil penalties for violations.

The American Nurses Association Massachusetts, Inc. (ANAMASS) is a constituent member association of the American Nurses Association (ANA), the professional association representing the interests of the nation's 5 million registered nurses. We advance the nursing profession by fostering high standards of nursing practice, promoting a safe and ethical work environment, bolstering the health and wellness of nurses, and advocating on health care issues that affect nurses and the public. All registered nurses are eligible to join ANAMASS. Reflective of the profession, our membership is inclusive of many roles, including direct care nurses and advanced practice registered nurses, who work in a wide range of settings such as acute care hospitals, clinics, long-term care, schools and other settings. Approximately 50 percent of ANA's members who hold membership at the Massachusetts and national level are direct care, staff nurses.

Updated 9/22/25 cd