

## LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES 2023-2024

### **H.1980: An Act relative to ending unnecessary hospitalizations and reducing emergency department boarding** (Rep. Decker)

Emergency Department (ED) “boarding” is a legal limbo where people are not receiving active treatment in a therapeutic setting and can be detained indefinitely. This bill will reduce ED boarding and unnecessary hospitalizations by requiring the exploration of community-based alternatives. → [View Fact Sheet](#)

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### **S.1248: An Act to increase investment in behavioral health care in the Commonwealth** (Sen. Friedman)

This bill would require a shift in health care spending to achieve a significant increase in investment in behavioral health care services. The initial investment would be 30% higher than the baseline behavioral healthcare spending, as calculated by the Center for Health Information and Analysis (CHIA). → [View Fact Sheet](#)

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### **S.610/H.989: An Act for Supportive Care for Serious Mental Illness** (Sen. Cronin/Rep. Decker)

This bill requires commercial health insurers to cover comprehensive, evidence-based treatments, specifically Coordinated Specialty Care (CSC) and Assertive Community Treatment (ACT), for individuals living with untreated psychosis. → [View Fact Sheet](#)

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### **S.1239/H.2985: An Act to transfer Bridgewater State Hospital from the Department of Corrections to the Department of Mental Health** (Sen. Creem/Rep. Balsler)

This bill will transfer oversight of Bridgewater State Hospital (BSH) to the Department of Mental Health (DMH) from the Department of Correction (DOC). → [View Fact Sheet](#)

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### **S.240/H.497: An Act relative to mental health education/An Act relative to the promotion of mental health education** (Sen. Collins/Rep. Higgins, Rep. Kilcoyne)

This bill requires mental health education in all MA public and private schools, in grade K-12, but does not mandate a specific curriculum or content. → [View Fact Sheet](#)

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### **S.1037/H.1601: An Act prohibiting discrimination against adults with disabilities in Family and Juvenile Court proceedings** (Sen. Lovely/Rep. Khan)

This bill will require the courts to determine if a parent's disability causes actual harm to a child based on evidence, not assumptions, explain, in writing, if the disability is a negative factor in custody and parenting time decisions, and assess if the harm can be avoided with adaptive equipment or supportive services. → [View Fact Sheet](#)

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**Questions?** Please email Jacqueline Hubbard, Director of Policy, Advocacy, and Communications, at [jhubbard@namimass.org](mailto:jhubbard@namimass.org) or Amanda Stone, Communications and Public Policy Specialist, at [astone@namimass.org](mailto:astone@namimass.org).