

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services**

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Under the authority of M.G.L. c. 118E and in accordance with M.G.L. c. 30A, the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) will hold a remote public hearing on Monday, April 6, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. relative to the adoption of amendments to the following regulation.

101 CMR 614.00: Health Safety Net Payments and Funding

The proposed regulation amendments update the payment distribution methodology for health safety net participating hospitals for dates of service on or after October 1, 2025. Specifically, the proposed regulation amendments implement a payment distribution methodology that is more directly proportional to hospitals relative public payer mix, as compared to the current methodology.

There is no fiscal impact to the Commonwealth associated with these proposed changes or on cities and towns.

To register to testify at the hearing and to get instructions on how to join the hearing online, go to www.mass.gov/info-details/executive-office-of-health-and-human-services-public-hearings. To join the hearing by phone, call (646) 558-8656 and enter meeting ID 935 397 8200# when prompted.

You may also submit written testimony instead of, or in addition to, live testimony. To submit written testimony, please email your testimony to ehs-regulations@mass.gov as an attached Word or PDF document or as text within the body of the email with the name of the regulation in the subject line. All written testimony must include the sender's full name, mailing address, and organization or affiliation, if any. Individuals who are unable to submit testimony by email should mail written testimony to EOHHS, c/o D. Briggs, 100 Hancock Street, 6th Floor, Quincy, MA 02171. Written testimony will be accepted through 5:00 p.m. on April 6, 2026. EOHHS specifically invites comments as to how the amendments may affect access to care for Health Safety Net patients.

To review the current draft of the proposed regulation, go to www.mass.gov/info-details/executive-office-of-health-and-human-services-public-hearings or request a copy in writing from MassHealth Publications, 100 Hancock Street, 6th Floor, Quincy, MA 02171.

Special accommodation requests may be directed to the Disability Accommodations Ombudsman by email at ADAaccommodations@mass.gov or by phone at (617) 847-3468, TTY: (617) 847-3788. Please allow two weeks to schedule sign language interpreters.

EOHHS may adopt a revised version of the proposed regulation taking into account relevant comments and any other practical alternatives that come to its attention.

In case of inclement weather or other emergency, hearing cancellation announcements will be posted on the MassHealth website at www.mass.gov/info-details/executive-office-of-health-and-human-services-public-hearings.

March 13, 2026

Small Business Impact Statement

(As required by M.G.L. c. 30A §§ 2, 3 & 5)

CMR No and Title: 101 CMR 614.00: *Health Safety Net Payments and Funding*

Estimate of the Number of Small Businesses Impacted by the Regulation: There are about 60 acute hospitals and 34 community health centers in Massachusetts which are qualified to participate in the Health Safety Net and therefore may be subject to the regulation. However, few of these entities, if any, are small businesses.

| Write Yes or No | Explain Briefly |
|-----------------|--|
| No | Will small businesses have to create, file, or issue additional reports? The proposed amendments do not require the creation, filing, or issuing of any additional reports. |
| No | Will small businesses have to implement additional recordkeeping procedures? The proposed amendments do not require any additional recordkeeping. |
| No | Will small businesses have to provide additional administrative oversight? The proposed amendments do not require any additional administrative oversight by small businesses. |
| No | Will small businesses have to hire additional employees in order to comply with the proposed regulation? The proposed amendments do not require the hiring any additional employees. |
| No | Does compliance with the regulation require small businesses to hire other professionals (e.g., a lawyer, accountant, engineer, etc.)? The proposed amendments do not require small businesses to hire any other professionals. |
| No | Does the regulation require small businesses to purchase a product or make any other capital investments in order to comply with the regulation? The proposed amendments do not require small businesses to make any capital investments in order to comply. |
| No | Are performance standards more appropriate than design/operational standards to accomplish the regulatory objective? (Performance standards express requirements in terms of outcomes, giving the regulated party flexibility to achieve regulatory objectives and design/operational standards specify exactly what actions regulated parties must take.) The proposed amendments do not affect performance standards or design/operational standards. Performance, design, or operational standards are not more appropriate to accomplish the regulatory objective. |
| No | Do any other regulations duplicate or conflict with the proposed regulation? There are no duplicative or conflicting regulations with the proposed amended regulation. |
| No | Does the regulation require small businesses to cooperate with audits, inspections or other regulatory enforcement activities? |

| Write Yes or No | Explain Briefly |
|-----------------|---|
| | The proposed amendments do not affect any activity related to audits, inspections, or other regulatory enforcement activities. |
| No | Does the regulation require small businesses to provide educational services to keep up to date with regulatory requirements? The proposed amendments do not require small businesses to provide educational services to keep up with regulatory requirements. |
| No | Is the regulation likely to <i>deter</i> the formation of small businesses in Massachusetts? The proposed amendments do not deter or encourage the formation of new small businesses. |
| No | Is the regulation likely to <i>encourage</i> the formation of small businesses in Massachusetts? The proposed amendments do not deter or encourage the formation of new small businesses. |
| No | Does the regulation provide for less stringent compliance or reporting requirements for small businesses? The proposed amendments do not differentiate between small businesses and other regulated entities. |
| No | Does the regulation establish less stringent schedules or deadlines for compliance or reporting requirements for small businesses? The proposed amendments do not differentiate between small businesses and other regulated entities. |
| No | Did the agency consolidate or simplify compliance or reporting requirements for small businesses? The proposed amendments do not differentiate between small businesses and other regulated entities. |
| No | Can performance standards for small businesses replace design or operational standards without hindering delivery of the regulatory objective? Performance standards do not achieve the regulatory objective of the proposed amendments. |
| No | Are there alternative regulatory methods that would minimize the adverse impact on small businesses? The amended language in the regulation does not adversely impact small businesses, so no alternative methods are necessary. |