

# SENATE NO. 261

## **AN ACT** PROVIDING FOR CAPITAL OUTLAYS FOR THE ACQUISITION, UPGRADING, DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF HEALTH CARE TECHNOLOGY IN THE COMMONWEALTH

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

1 SECTION 1. The purpose of this act is to provide for grants and zero or low-interest loans to state  
2 and local agencies of government, institutions of higher education, health care providers, health  
3 care organizations, health plans and insurance entities, health consumer organizations, not-for-profit  
4 health information technology corporations and other organizations in health care technology,  
5 including but not limited to equipment, access charges, training and applied research.

6 SECTION 2. Any such grants, zero or low-interest loans made pursuant to this act, shall be made  
7 available through the Massachusetts Health and Educational Facilities authority established by  
8 chapter 614 of the acts of 1968 or through not-for-profit health information technology  
9 corporations.

10 (1) monitor or implement patient safety, medical error reduction systems including but not  
11 limited to medication error reduction systems;

- 12 (2) facilitate direct consumer enrollment in state sponsored health programs including, but  
13 not limited to MassHealth, CHIP and the Pharmacy Program;
- 14 (3) develop programs to electronically receive and process provider claims for Medicaid and  
15 other state health programs;
- 16 (4) provide consumer information directly and through health information centers located in  
17 public libraries, schools, senior centers and neighborhood health centers relative to  
18 prevention and health education;
- 19 (5) provide telemedicine and telehealth services to specific consumers primarily to reduce  
20 the reliance on emergency room services or to improve contact with the health system,  
21 including, but not limited to homecare participants and assisted living or nursing home  
22 residents, and to promote underserved populations;
- 23 (6) provide appropriate access to patient records data, including but not limited to, the  
24 development of a credit card sized personal patient medical records;
- 25 (7) provide health education including but not limited to training and education courses as  
26 well as information to the public or health professional, and to provide information  
27 about careers in health care.
- 28 (8) provide grants to not-for-profit health technology information corporations to be  
29 matched with any federal funds designated for the purpose of establishing a health  
30 information revolving loan fund for distribution as loans to eligible applicants for  
31 healthcare information technology improvements.

32 SECTION 3. To meet the expenditures necessary in carrying out the provisions of section two, the  
33 state treasurer shall, upon request of the governor, issue and sell bonds of the commonwealth to an  
34 amount specified by the governor from time to time, not exceeding, in the aggregate, one hundred

35 million dollars. All bonds issued by the commonwealth, as aforesaid, shall be designated on their  
36 face, Health Care Technology Bond Act of 2008, and shall be issued for a maximum term, not  
37 exceeding seven years, as the governor may recommend to the general court pursuant to section  
38 three of Article LXII of the Amendments to the Constitution of the Commonwealth provided, that  
39 all such bonds shall be payable not later than June thirtieth, two thousand and nineteen. All interest  
40 and payments on account of principal of such obligations shall be payable from the General Fund.  
41 Bonds and interest thereon issued under the authority of this section shall be general obligations of  
42 the commonwealth.

43 SECTION 4. The state treasurer may borrow from time to time on the credit of the commonwealth  
44 such sums of money as may be necessary for the purposes of meeting payments authorized by  
45 section two of this act and may issue and renew from time to time notes of the commonwealth  
46 therefore, bearing interest payable at such times and at such rates as shall be fixed by the state  
47 treasurer. Such notes shall be issued and may be renewed one or more times for such terms, not  
48 exceeding one year, as the governor may recommend to the general court in accordance with  
49 section three of Article LXII of the Amendments to the Constitution of the Commonwealth, but the  
50 final maturities of such notes, whether original or renewal, shall not be later than June thirtieth, two  
51 thousand and nine. Notes and interest thereon issued under the authority of this section shall be  
52 general obligations of the commonwealth. All interest and payments on account of principal of  
53 such obligations shall be payable from the General Fund.

54 SECTION 5. Expenditures of funds for the purpose of section two shall be based upon schedules  
55 prepared by the executive office of health and human services and submitted to the secretary for  
56 administration and finance, the house and senate committees on ways and means, the house and  
57 senate committees on science and technology and the joint committee on health care, thirty days

58 prior to the obligation of said funds. Said office is hereby further authorized and directed to file  
59 annually with said committees, commencing not later than September first, of the year two  
60 thousand and nine an accounting of expenditures for said projects contained in section two for the  
61 prior fiscal year, including, but not limited to an accounting of the amount expended for hardware,  
62 software and personnel, an assessment of whether such project is within budget and on schedule for  
63 completion, and an explanation of any deviations in completion timetables and funding needs that  
64 were originally established for such projects. Said office shall simultaneously file with said  
65 committees and said secretary a spending plan identifying projected expenditures on such projects  
66 in the current fiscal year, including but not limited to, expenditures by type, and projected  
67 milestones and completion schedules.