

# SENATE NO. 654

## **AN ACT** TO ESTABLISH A WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS PUBLIC HEALTH ACCESS COMMISSION

*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. There shall be a special Commission to study the public health issues caused by a  
2 growing shortage of access by women in Western Massachusetts to quality obstetric, gynecological  
3 and neurosurgical care. Said Commission shall convene no later than July 1, 2007. The Commission  
4 shall be comprised of the following members: The Commissioner of Public Health who shall serve as  
5 the Chair, the Executive Director of the Board of Registration in Medicine, the Commissioner of  
6 Insurance, the Commissioner of Medicaid, one Obstetrician from Western Massachusetts, one  
7 neurosurgeon from Western Massachusetts and two members of the Senate to be appointed by the  
8 Senate President and two members of the House to be appointed by the Speaker of the House. Said  
9 Commission shall convene public hearings to determine the health risk factors and access to care  
10 factors that are the result of decreased access to obstetric services and neurosurgical services due to  
11 current reimbursement rates by public and private payors and other cost issues associated with  
12 escalating malpractice premiums including but not limited to inadequate Medicaid reimbursement  
13 rates and fee schedules for said medical specialties. These hearings shall also examine the effect of  
14 escalating malpractice rates on obstetric group practices and obstetricians maintaining part-time

- 15 practice schedules. Upon completion of the hearing and analysis of the facts, said members of the
- 16 Commission shall issue a report no later than November 1, 2007

