

SENATE No. 1204

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Cynthia S. Creem

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to the forensic sciences advisory board.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Cynthia S. Creem

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

SENATE No. 1204

By Ms. Creem, petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1204) of Creem for legislation relative to the forensic sciences advisory board [Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security].

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Eleven

An Act relative to the forensic sciences advisory board.

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. Chapter 6 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2008 Official
2 Edition, is hereby amended by striking out section 184A and inserting the following new
3 section:-

4 There shall be in the executive office of public safety and security a forensic
5 sciences advisory board, hereinafter called the board, which shall advise the secretary on all
6 aspects of the administration and delivery of criminal forensic sciences in the commonwealth.
7 The board shall consist of the undersecretary for forensic sciences, who shall also serve as
8 chairperson of the board, the attorney general, the colonel of the state police, the president of the
9 Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association, the president of the Massachusetts Urban Chiefs
10 Association, the president of the Massachusetts District Attorney's Association, a district
11 attorney designated by the Massachusetts District Attorney's Association, the commissioner of
12 the department of public health and the Chief Counsel of the Committee for Public Counsel
13 Services, or their respective designees, three scientists, experienced in delivery, management or

14 oversight of scientific services, one of whom shall be a forensic scientist with practical
15 experience in an accredited crime lab, one of whom shall have a specialty in the natural or
16 biological sciences and one of whom shall have a specialty in the physical sciences, and two
17 members of the bar with experience in criminal practice and forensic science issues, one each to
18 be appointed on recommendation of the Massachusetts Bar Association and Boston Bar
19 Association. The members shall serve without compensation, except that, with respect to the
20 three scientists, reasonable travel expenses may be paid for the purpose of attending meetings.
21 Each appointed member shall serve for a term of three years or until a successor is appointed and
22 qualified, whichever is longer. The board shall meet no less than quarterly and as otherwise
23 convened by the undersecretary. The board shall coordinate its responsibilities with the medico-
24 legal investigation commission and shall not infringe upon the commission's authority as
25 established in section 184 of this chapter.

26 At the direction of the board, the undersecretary for forensic sciences shall
27 advise the board on the administration and delivery of forensic services in the commonwealth.
28 The undersecretary shall include in his report information as the board requests, including but
29 not limited to the volume of forensic services required for each county, including costs and the
30 length of time from submission for testing or procedures and return of results; the capacity of the
31 commonwealth's forensic services and funding requirements; the accreditation of forensic
32 facilities and training of personnel; facilities expansion, including location and funding for a new
33 state police crime lab; and partnerships with other public and private forensic services. The
34 undersecretary shall make recommendations for the allocation of resources and expansion of
35 services, and on an annual basis, submit budget recommendations to the secretary of public
36 safety and security and the board.