HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 680 FILED ON: 1/14/2015

HOUSE . . . . . No. 1959

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Denise C. Garlick

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 establishing the special commission on local and regional public health.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Denise C. Garlick	*13th Norfolk*
Jason M. Lewis	*Fifth Middlesex*
Paul W. Mark	*2nd Berkshire*
Stephen Kulik	*1st Franklin*
Denise Provost	*27th Middlesex*
James B. Eldridge	*Middlesex and Worcester*
Michael O. Moore	*Second Worcester*
Paul McMurtry	*11th Norfolk*
James Arciero	*2nd Middlesex*
Marcos A. Devers	*16th Essex*
James M. Cantwell	*4th Plymouth*
Paul Tucker	*7th Essex*
Jonathan Hecht	*29th Middlesex*
Josh S. Cutler	*6th Plymouth*
Stephen L. DiNatale	*3rd Worcester*
Danielle W. Gregoire	*4th Middlesex*
Sean Garballey	*23rd Middlesex*
Jeffrey Sánchez	*15th Suffolk*

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HOUSE . . . . . No. 1959

By Ms. Garlick of Needham, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1959) of Denise C. Garlick and others for an investigation by a special commission (including members of the General Court) relative to local and regional public health. Public Health.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court
(2015-2016)

An Act establishing the special commission on local and regional public health.

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

Chapter 111 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after Section 27C the following section:-

Section 27D. There is established on the books of the Commonwealth a special commission on local and regional public health. The purpose of the commission shall be to assess the effectiveness and efficiency of municipal and regional public health systems in Massachusetts and to make recommendations to strengthen the delivery of public health services and preventive measures.

The commission shall consist of 21 members, which shall include the chief executive officer or their designees of the following agencies: the executive office of administration and finance; the department of public health, who shall serve as chair of the commission; the department of environmental protection; the Massachusetts municipal association; the Massachusetts taxpayers foundation; the Massachusetts public health association; the

13 Massachusetts health officers association; the Massachusetts association of health boards; the
14 Massachusetts environmental health association; the Massachusetts association of public health
15 nurses; the western Massachusetts public health association; and the Massachusetts public health
16 regionalization project working group.

17 The Governor of the Commonwealth shall appoint 7 members of the commission: 1 of
18 whom shall be a representative of a research or academic institution with experience in public
19 health data collection and analysis; 1 of whom shall be a representative of a community health
20 center; 1 of whom shall be a representative of a hospital system; 1 of whom shall have expertise
21 in public health workforce development; 1 of whom shall be a public health representative of a
22 municipality with a population greater than 75,000; 1 of whom shall be a public health
23 representative of a municipality with a population between 5,000 and 75,000; and 1 of whom
24 shall be a public health representative of a municipality with a population less than 5,000. At
25 least two members of the commission shall be representatives from municipalities with regional
26 service models. One member of the commission shall be a member of the Massachusetts House
27 of Representatives, who shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House; one member shall be a
28 member of the Massachusetts Senate, who shall be appointed by the Senate President.

29 The commission shall: examine the capacity of local and regional public health
30 authorities in comparison to national public health standards and recommendations from the
31 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Public Health Accreditation Board, the National
32 Association of City and County Health Officials, the National Association of Local Boards of
33 Health, the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials, and other relevant
34 organizations; assess the capacity of local public health authorities to carry out statutory
35 responsibilities and powers under Massachusetts law; evaluate existing municipal and state

36 resources for local health and assess per capita funding levels within municipalities for local
37 health; evaluate the workforce credentials of current and future public health workforce as to
38 educational standards, credentialing and training; assess the current capacity of the office of local
39 and regional health within the department of public health; evaluate existing regional
40 collaboration and various models of service delivery across the Commonwealth, including
41 standalone, shared service, and fully comprehensive regional districts; determine the
42 Commonwealth's progress towards achieving recommendations made by the Massachusetts
43 Regionalization Advisory Commission in 2010.

44 The commission may solicit public input through public hearings and testimony.

45 The commission shall prepare and submit to the Governor, the Joint Committee on Public
46 Health, the House Committee on Ways and Means, and the Senate Committee on Ways and
47 Means, a report that includes: a summary of the commission's findings; a review of local public
48 health organization and financing in other states; a review of the strengths and weaknesses of the
49 local public health system as it currently exists in Massachusetts, with particular attention to
50 capacity, functionality, and efficiency; recommendations on organizational and fiscal models that
51 would work to ensure capacity across municipalities; recommendations on the sharing of
52 resources across municipalities, including regionalization; recommendations to strengthen public
53 health data reporting, gathering, and analysis, including any recommendations on mandatory
54 reporting of local health authorities to the department; recommendations on whether dedicated
55 funding streams should be established at the state and local level; and recommendations to
56 strengthen the local public health workforce and ensure training of the next generation of local
57 public health professionals, including leveraging academic partnerships.

58 The commission shall submit a final report by July 31, 2017.