

HOUSE No. 3161

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Jerald A. Parisella

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 a commission to study veterans transportation issues.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Jerald A. Parisella</i>	<i>6th Essex</i>
<i>Dennis A. Rosa</i>	<i>4th Worcester</i>
<i>Jennifer E. Benson</i>	<i>37th Middlesex</i>
<i>Colleen M. Garry</i>	<i>36th Middlesex</i>
<i>Tricia Farley-Bouvier</i>	<i>3rd Berkshire</i>
<i>Claire D. Cronin</i>	<i>11th Plymouth</i>
<i>Jason M. Lewis</i>	<i>Fifth Middlesex</i>
<i>RoseLee Vincent</i>	<i>16th Suffolk</i>
<i>Walter F. Timilty</i>	<i>7th Norfolk</i>
<i>Barbara A. L'Italien</i>	<i>Second Essex and Middlesex</i>
<i>John V. Fernandes</i>	<i>10th Worcester</i>
<i>Sal N. DiDomenico</i>	<i>Middlesex and Suffolk</i>
<i>Michael J. Finn</i>	<i>6th Hampden</i>
<i>James M. Murphy</i>	<i>4th Norfolk</i>
<i>John C. Velis</i>	<i>4th Hampden</i>
<i>Joan B. Lovely</i>	<i>Second Essex</i>
<i>Louis L. Kafka</i>	<i>8th Norfolk</i>

HOUSE No. 3161

By Mr. Parisella of Beverly, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3161) of Jerald A. Parisella and others for an investigation by a special commission (including members of the General Court) relative to veterans transportation issues. Veterans and Federal Affairs.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act establishing a commission to study veterans transportation issues.

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

1 There is hereby established a special commission to study and make recommendations
2 regarding veterans access to transportation for medical and other service-connected appointments
3 with the goal of expanding and improving transportation options for veterans.

4 The commission shall consist of 11 members: 3 members of the senate, 1 of whom shall
5 be the chair of the joint committee on veterans and federal affairs, 1 of whom shall be the chair
6 of the joint committee on transportation and 1 of whom shall be a member of the senate who is
7 on the joint committee on veterans and federal affairs or the joint committee on transportation to
8 be appointed by the minority leader of the senate, or the members’ designee; the secretary of
9 transportation, or a designee; the secretary of veterans’ services, or a designee; 3 members of the
10 house of representatives, 1 of whom shall be the chair of the joint committee on veterans and
11 federal affairs, 1 of whom shall be the chair of the joint committee on transportation and 1 of
12 whom shall be a member of the house of representatives who is on the joint committee on

13 veterans and federal affairs or the joint committee on transportation appointed by the minority
14 leader of the house of representatives, or the members' designee; and 5 members appointed by
15 the governor, who shall consist of members with specialized knowledge of veterans and/or
16 transportation issues. The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president of the senate
17 shall select 2 members from the commission membership to serve as co-chairpersons.

18 The commission may hold hearings and invite testimony from experts and the public. The
19 commission shall review and identify best practices learned from similar efforts in other states.

20 The commission shall report to the general court the results of its investigation and study
21 and suggest an action plan and make recommendations together with drafts of legislation
22 necessary to carry out its recommendations by filing the report with the clerks of the senate and
23 the house of representatives and with the joint committees on veterans and federal affairs and
24 transportation 270 days after the formation of said committee.