

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 2128**

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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**In the Year Two Thousand Nine**  
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An Act Creating a Special Task Force to Make an Investigation and Study on Issues Related to the Practice of Defensive Medicine..

*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. Notwithstanding the provisions of any general or special law to the  
2 contrary, there is hereby established a special task force to study issues relating to the practice of  
3 defensive medicine in the Commonwealth. The task force shall investigate and report on the  
4 practice of defensive medicine in the Commonwealth, including costs to the state and insurers as  
5 a result of this practice, negative consequences arising out of the practice of defensive medicine  
6 and the impact of defensive medicine on patient care. The task force shall also develop and  
7 recommend strategies to reduce or eliminate the impact of defensive medicine.

8           The task force shall be comprised of 15 members, including the House and Senate Chairs  
9 of the Joint Committee on Health Care, who shall serve as co-chairs of the task force; the House  
10 and Senate Chairs of the Joint Committee on Insurance; the House and Senate Chairs of the Joint  
11 Committee on Health Care Finance; a Senate member recommended by the Senate President; a  
12 Senate member of the minority party recommended by the minority leader of the Senate; a  
13 House member recommended by the Speaker of the House; a House member of the minority

14 party recommended by the minority leader of the House; the Commissioner of the Department of  
15 Public Health or his designee; the dean of the University of Massachusetts Medical School; and  
16 one representative from each of the following organizations: the Massachusetts Hospital  
17 Association; the Massachusetts Medical Society and the Massachusetts Association of Health  
18 Plans. Said task force shall file a report of its study, including its recommendations and drafts of  
19 any legislation, if necessary, with the clerks of the Senate and House of Representatives within  
20 one year of the effective date of this act.