

SENATE No. 2219

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Nine

Resolve establishing a special commission on the reuse of Westborough State Hospital.

1 **Resolved**, that a special commission shall be established to foster coordination and
2 planning among municipalities and state agencies regarding the reuse of any portions of
3 Westborough State Hospital that are determined, pursuant to chapter 7 of the general laws, to be
4 surplus to current or foreseeable state needs after patients of the department of mental health are
5 transferred from Westborough State Hospital. The commission shall consist of the
6 commissioner of capital asset management and maintenance or his designee who shall serve as
7 chair; the secretary of housing and economic development or his designee; the commissioner of
8 mental health or his designee; the commissioner of youth services or his designee; the
9 commissioner of fish and game or his designee; the commissioner of agricultural resources or his
10 designee; a representative of the Massachusetts Historical Commission; a representative of the
11 department of highways; two representatives of the town of Westborough, who shall be a
12 members of the Westborough board of selectmen or their designees; two representatives of the
13 town of Northborough, who shall be a members of the Northborough board of selectmen or their
14 designees; and a representative of the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission. A
15 representative of the 495/MetroWest Corridor Partnership, as well as the senators and
16 representatives who represent the towns of Westborough and Northborough shall serve as non-

voting ex-officio members. The commission shall be subject to the provisions of sections 11A and 11A-1/2 of chapter 30A of the general laws.

The commission shall: (1) review existing municipal comprehensive plans and zoning; (2) consider state, regional and local plans and policies that might affect or guide use of surplus portions of the Hospital including, without limitation, plans and policies encouraging the development of a variety of housing options, jobs, and open space, and policies encouraging smart growth; (3) solicit public input on potential uses of surplus portions of the Hospital; (4) provide information and analysis regarding these fore-mentioned matters to the towns of Westborough and Northborough as may be requested, to the extent funding for the provision of such information and analysis is available; (5) work with the planning boards and boards of selectmen of the Towns of Westborough and Northborough in a cooperative planning process to identify any appropriate zoning changes and to develop and bring proposals for such changes for town meeting approval; (6) consider potential municipal uses or needs in relation to any portions of the Hospital that may be surplus; and (7) be formally constituted and hold its initial meeting to begin its task no later than 45 days from the passage of this legislation; and (8) submit a written report and recommendation to the clerks of the senate and house of representatives and the commissioner of capital asset management and maintenance on potential re-uses of and appropriate restrictions upon surplus portions of the Hospital not later than 1 year after the determination, pursuant to chapter 7 of the general laws, that one or more portions of Westborough State Hospital are surplus to current or foreseeable state needs.