HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 3053 FILED ON: 1/21/2011

HOUSE . . . . . No. 2673

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Cheryl A. Coakley-Rivera

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 resolve:

Resolve providing for an investigation and study by a special commission relative to gender-responsive programming for juvenile justice system involved girls.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Cheryl A. Coakley-Rivera	*10th Hampden*
Kay Khan	*11th Middlesex*
Tom Sannicandro	*7th Middlesex*
Benjamin Swan	*11th Hampden*

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By Ms. Coakley-Rivera of Springfield, a petition (accompanied by resolve, House, No. 2673) of Cheryl A. Coakley-Rivera and others for an investigation by a special commission (including members of the General Court) of gender responsive programming for juvenile justice system involved girls. Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. *2659* OF 2009-2010.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Eleven

Resolve providing for an investigation and study by a special commission relative to gender-responsive programming for juvenile justice system involved girls.

Resolved, That a special commission be established to investigate and study methods of instituting gender-responsive programming for juvenile justice system involved girls and to improve the effectiveness of services therefor. The commission shall consist of 2 members of the senate, 1 of whom shall be appointed by the senate president, 1 of whom shall be appointed by the minority leader; 2 members of the house of representatives, 1 of whom shall be appointed by the speaker, 1 of whom shall be appointed by the minority leader; the secretary of health and human services or a designee thereof; the commissioner of elementary and secondary education or a designee thereof; the commissioner of probation or a designee thereof; the commissioner of youth services or a designee thereof; the commissioner of children and families or a designee thereof; the commissioner of mental health or a designee thereof; the commissioner of public health or a designee thereof; the chief counsel for the committee for public counsel services or a

12 designee thereof; the chief justice of the juvenile court department or a designee thereof; and 8
13 persons to be appointed by the governor who are current state vendors that provide direct
14 services to high-risk girls and who, collectively, serve or reside in each major geographic area of
15 the commonwealth or representatives thereof. The governor shall designate a chairperson or 2
16 co-chairpersons from the aforementioned members.

17 The commission shall: (i) conduct a review of gender-responsive programming
18 implementation successes and challenges in the commonwealth and in other states' juvenile
19 justice systems; (ii) conduct a review of the published reports, curricula and best practices for
20 gender-specific programming by government, foundations and non-profit organizations; (iii)
21 conduct a review of leading indicators that statistically result in girls becoming involved in
22 juvenile justice systems; (iv) review relevant state training curricula; (v) review relevant state
23 agencies' methods of data collection and aggregation by gender and race; (vi) analyze and
24 evaluate relevant state contracts with private or community-based vendors for the purpose of
25 determining whether these vendors utilize a comprehensive approach when providing
26 programming for girls involved in juvenile justice systems; (vii) analyze and report the rates of
27 recidivism amongst juvenile justice system involved girls; (viii) analyze and report the rates of
28 non-juvenile justice system executive agency service utilization by juvenile justice system
29 involved girls; (ix) track and analyze educational attainment of juvenile justice system involved
30 girls; (x) hold at least 3 regional meetings across the commonwealth to solicit the input of
31 community members and agencies serving high-risk girls; and (xi) establish a mechanism for
32 incorporating the opinions of juvenile justice system involved girls into the commission's
33 findings.

34 The commission shall meet at least 6 times per year at the call of the chair or
35 chairpersons or at the call of a majority of the commission's members. The commission may
36 seek assistance from other organizations or individuals on a pro bono basis. The commission
37 shall file periodic reports that shall include recommendations relative to gender-responsive
38 programming, both community-based and state-wide, for serving high-risk and juvenile justice
39 system involved girls with the clerks of the senate and the house of representatives who shall
40 forward the same to the joint committee on children, families and persons with disabilities. The
41 initial report of the commission shall be filed on or before January 31, 2012 and biennially
42 thereafter.