

HOUSE No. 3607

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Jason M. Lewis

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 special commission to identify opportunities to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of state agencies, programs and services.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Frank I. Smizik</i>	<i>15th Norfolk</i>	<i>1/28/2011</i>
<i>William N. Brownsberger</i>		<i>1/28/2011</i>
<i>Carolyn C. Dykema</i>	<i>8th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/4/2011</i>

HOUSE No. 3607

By Mr. Lewis of Winchester, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3607) of Frank I. Smizik, William N. Brownsberger and Carolyn C. Dykema for an investigation by a special commission (including members of the General Court) to identify opportunities to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of state agencies, programs and services. State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Eleven

An Act establishing a special commission to identify opportunities to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of state agencies, programs and services.

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 shall be a special commission to study and make recommendations concerning
2 functional overlaps and other redundancies among state agencies and opportunities to promote
3 efficiency and accountability in state government. The commission shall consist of 17 members:
4 3 of whom shall be appointed by the speaker of the house; 2 of whom shall be appointed by the
5 house minority leader; 3 of whom shall be appointed by the senate president; 2 of whom shall be
6 appointed by the senate minority leader; 1 of whom shall be appointed by the state auditor; 1 of
7 whom shall be appointed by the state treasurer; and 5 of whom shall be appointed by the
8 governor. The speaker of the house and the senate president shall determine which 2 members
9 of the commission shall serve as co-chairpersons.

10 The commission shall identify ways to eliminate overlaps and redundancies among state
11 agencies and make such other recommendations as the commission deems appropriate, with the

goal of reducing costs to the state and enhancing the quality and accessibility of state services to the public. The commission shall consider merging or consolidating state agencies and programs if such action would reduce costs without adversely impacting the quality of services. The commission shall also seek to identify opportunities to maximize revenues, such as federal grants and matching funds.

The commission may hold hearings and invite testimony from experts and the public. The commission shall review and identify best practices learned from similar efforts in other states, such as the state of Connecticut's commission on enhancing agency outcomes which reported its findings and recommendations in December of 2010.

The agency head and staff of each state agency under consideration by the commission shall ensure that any data, information or materials that the commission requests for purposes of its review and deliberations are provided to the commission in a timely manner.

Members of the commission shall be named and the commission shall commence its work within 60 days of the effective date of this act. The commission shall report to the general court the results of its investigation and study, and recommendations, if any, together with drafts of legislation necessary to carry its recommendations into effect by filing the same with the clerks of the senate and the house of representatives on or before January 2, 2013. The clerks of the house and senate shall make the report available to the public through the internet.