

HOUSE No. 3865

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Eleven

An Act relative to the establishment of a commission to modernize HIV/AIDS Prevention and treatment.

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. There shall be a special commission for the purpose of devising a statewide
2 strategy to modernize HIV/AIDS testing, prevention and treatment in the commonwealth. The
3 commission shall consist of the following members: 2 members appointed by the speaker of the
4 house; 1 member appointed by the house minority leader; 2 members appointed by the senate
5 president; 1 member appointed by the senate minority leader; the commissioner of public health
6 or a designee; the director of the bureau of infectious diseases; the director of the office of
7 HIV/AIDS; the director of the bureau of substance abuse; a member of the massachusetts
8 department of public health statewide consumer advisory board; 3 members representing HIV
9 and AIDS community-based organizations; 3 clinicians with expertise in HIV epidemiology or
10 research; and 1 representative from the massachusetts medical society.

11 SECTION 2. The commission shall develop a comprehensive plan to address the goals
12 of increasing routine HIV testing while ensuring patient privacy, reducing the number of people
13 who become infected with HIV, increasing access to care and optimizing health outcomes for

14 people living with HIV, and reducing HIV-related health disparities in the commonwealth, as
15 called for by the national HIV/AIDS strategy, including a consensus budget proposal, capable of
16 being implemented over a 5 year period, with a focus as follows:-

17 (a) To ensure the collaboration of relevant agencies and organizations in the
18 commonwealth involved with testing, prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS;

19 (b) To review the goals and recommendations of the national HIV/AIDS strategy and
20 analyze how effective current programs, services, and policies of the commonwealth are at
21 meeting these goals;

22 (c) To review results of surveillance data, including hepatitis c co-infection rates,
23 substance use, and recent research developments including pre- and post-exposure prophylaxis,
24 microbicides, and deployment of rapid testing, and determine the best way to utilize these
25 new tools and data in prevention programs across the state, which may include additional
26 research or surveillance carried out by the department of public health in partnership with
27 relevant community-based organizations and health providers;

28 (d) To review research and data on HIV-related health disparities in the
29 commonwealth, including the department of public health reports, "an added burden: the impact
30 of the HIV/AIDS epidemic on communities of color in massachusetts," and, "the health of
31 lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender persons in massachusetts," and to specifically address the
32 needs of these populations in the comprehensive plan; and

33 (e) To carry out an analysis of the financial and organizational feasibility of utilizing
34 existing state resources for implementing a comprehensive plan to reduce HIV/AIDS and ensure

35 that the state maximizes its ability to leverage outside resources from federal, municipal, and
36 private sources.

37 SECTION 3. The commission shall be established within 90 days of passage of this act,
38 shall hold at least one public hearing, and shall submit its findings and recommendations to the
39 joint committee on public health on or before december 31, 2012.