

HOUSE No. 1892

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Ruth B. Balsler

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 to establish a commission to study the public health risks of video games.

PETITION OF:

| NAME: | DISTRICT/ADDRESS: | DATE ADDED: |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|-------------|
| <i>Ruth B. Balsler</i> | <i>12th Middlesex</i> | |
| <i>Jessica Solodar</i> | | |
| <i>Angelo M. Scaccia</i> | <i>14th Suffolk</i> | |

HOUSE No. 1892

By Ms. Balsler of Newton, a petition (accompanied by resolve, House, No. 1892) of Ruth B. Balsler, Jessica Solodar and Angelo M. Scaccia for an investigation by a special commission (including member of the General Court) relative to the public health risks of video games. Public Health.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Thirteen

Resolve to establish a commission to study the public health risks of video games.

1 Resolved, that a special commission is hereby established to make an investigation and
2 study into the public health risks to minors of seizures triggered by visual stimuli in video games,
3 as a consequence of the condition known as photosensitive epilepsy.

4 The commission shall be chaired by the Commissioner of the Department of Public
5 Health or a designee, and shall consist of the undersecretary of consumer affairs and business
6 regulation or a designee; a representative of the Massachusetts Chapter of the American
7 Academy of Pediatrics; a representative of the Massachusetts Medical Society; a representative
8 of the Epilepsy Foundation of Massachusetts; a representative of a consumer protection
9 advocacy organization, such as Health Care for All or MASSPIRG; a parent who has direct
10 experience with video game seizures; the co-chairs of the joint committee on public health or
11 their designees, and the co-chairs of the joint committee on consumer protection and professional
12 licensure or their designees.

13 The commission shall: investigate and study the prevalence within the known epilepsy
14 population and in the general community, and the effects of photosensitive seizures caused by
15 video games, including, but not limited to, investigating prevalence, effects on physical health,
16 mental health, and cognitive function. The Commission shall address public awareness and
17 seizure prevention issues relative to recreational video game use at home and in educational
18 video games used in school.

19 The commission shall submit a report to the general court of the results of its
20 investigation and study and its recommendations no later than December 31, 2014.