

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 2021**

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**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 providing for a viral hepatitis prevention, screening, treatment and education program.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Jason M. Lewis</i>	<i>Fifth Middlesex</i>	<i>1/17/2013</i>
<i>Kay Khan</i>	<i>11th Middlesex</i>	
<i>Denise Provost</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>	

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 2021**

By Mr. Lewis of Winchester, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2021) of Jason M. Lewis, Kay Khan and Denise Provost relative to establishing a program for viral hepatitis prevention, screening, treatment and education within the Department of Public Health. Public Health.

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

**In the Year Two Thousand Thirteen**

An Act providing for a viral hepatitis prevention, screening, treatment and education program.

*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. Chapter 111 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2010 Official  
2 Edition, is hereby amended by striking out Section 4M and inserting in place thereof, the  
3 following section:

4 Section 4M. The department shall:

5 (a) Conduct a needs assessment to determine the incidence and prevalence of  
6 hepatitis B virus (HBV) and hepatitis C virus (HCV) in Massachusetts ;

7 (b) Develop and implement a program to prevent further transmission of viral  
8 hepatitis and to prevent onset of chronic liver disease caused by viral hepatitis;

9 (c) Develop and implement a statewide public education and community outreach  
10 program, subject to appropriation, to raise awareness about and promote prevention of viral  
11 hepatitis;

12 (d) Develop or approve evidence based educational materials on the risks, diagnosis ,  
13 treatment and prevention of viral hepatitis. These materials shall be made available in written  
14 and electronic form. These materials shall be targeted to physicians and other health care  
15 providers, current and former members of the armed services, incarcerated persons, persons born  
16 between the years 1945 and 1965, youth, racial and ethnic minorities, and other persons subject  
17 to increased risk of contracting viral hepatitis as determined by the department.

18 (e) Support the establishment and maintenance of a chronic and acute hepatitis B and  
19 hepatitis C surveillance program, in order to identify:

20 i. trends in the incidence of acute and chronic hepatitis B and acute and chronic  
21 hepatitis C

22 ii. trends in the prevalence of acute and chronic hepatitis B and acute and chronic  
23 hepatitis C infection among groups that may be disproportionately affected; and

24 iii. trends in liver cancer and end-stage liver disease incidence and deaths, caused by  
25 chronic hepatitis B and chronic hepatitis C in the high-risk ethnic populations

26 (f) Report on its viral hepatitis education, awareness, and prevention education and  
27 community outreach efforts to the joint committee on public health, and the House and Senate  
28 committees on ways and means annually, beginning on January 1, 2014.