

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 3194**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

*Harold P. Naughton, Jr.*

*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 relative to the Train Vets to Treat Vets Fund.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Harold P. Naughton, Jr.</i>	<i>12th Worcester</i>	<i>1/17/2013</i>
<i>Thomas J. Calter</i>	<i>12th Plymouth</i>	

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 3194**

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By Mr. Naughton of Clinton, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3194) of Harold P. Naughton, Jr., and Thomas J. Calter for the establishment of a separate fund to be known as the "train vets to treat vets fund" to assist returning veterans. Veterans and Federal Affairs.

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[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE HOUSE, NO. 3424 OF 2011-2012.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**In the Year Two Thousand Thirteen**  
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An Act relative to the Train Vets to Treat Vets Fund.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1           Whereas, the Governor’s Advisory Council on Veterans’ Services reviews the current  
2 state and federal resources available to veterans while also working to develop new proposals to  
3 assist veterans; and

4           Whereas the General Court requested in 2010 a report on the effectiveness and efficiency  
5 of establishing a program of behavioral health career development for returning veterans in  
6 conjunction with the Massachusetts School of Professional Psychology under a Federal Yellow  
7 Ribbon Program of scholarship entitled, Train Vets to Treat Vets to respond to the Special  
8 Commission to Study and Investigate the Hidden Wounds of War on Massachusetts Service  
9 Members’ 2009 report examining the mental health effects of war upon returning Massachusetts  
10 service members, identifying best practices in the delivery of services to veterans and addressing  
11 the barriers to accessing these services, while it described the severity and incidence of mental  
12 health issues for returning veterans;

13           Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in the General Court  
14 assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

15           SECTION 1. Chapter 10 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2008 Official Edition,  
16 is hereby amended by inserting the following new section:-

17 Section 35PP. There shall be established and set up on the books of the commonwealth a  
18 separate fund to be known as the Train Vets to Treat Vets Fund. The fund shall consist of monies  
19 paid to the registrar of motor vehicles pursuant to the nineteenth paragraph of section 2 of  
20 chapter 90, together with any interest or earnings accrued through investment or deposit. The  
21 state treasurer shall be custodian of the fund and shall receive, deposit and invest all monies  
22 transmitted to him under this section in accordance with sections 34, 34A and 38 of chapter 29 in  
23 such a manner as to secure the highest rate of return available consistent with the safety of the  
24 fund, and shall credit interest and earnings on the trust fund corpus to the trust fund. The state  
25 treasurer shall transfer funds, at the request of the council, from the income and receipts of the  
26 fund to the Governor's Advisory Council on Veterans Services established by Executive Order #  
27 483 in April of 2007. The council shall award and administer grants from the fund, without  
28 further appropriation, to community-based programs in clinical service partnership with  
29 institution(s) of higher education providing scholarship, career development and support for the  
30 formal education of veterans to work with veterans and their families in the provision of  
31 culturally competent behavioral health, clinical counseling and support services. The council  
32 shall develop, in conjunction with the Department of Veterans Services, written criteria for the  
33 awarding of those grants, which shall be evaluated and revised as necessary. For purposes of this  
34 section the word "veteran" shall have the same meaning as that defined in clause Forty-third of  
35 section 7 of chapter 4 of the General Laws. No funds collected from these provisions shall deter  
36 from the collection of fees by the registrar of motor vehicles for the Chelsea and Holyoke  
37 Soldiers' Homes pursuant to section 2 of chapter 90 of the General Laws through the purchase of  
38 license plates with the designation VETERAN by eligible veterans of the commonwealth, upon  
39 compensating the registry of motor vehicles for the cost associated with the license plates, and  
40 which shall be deposited into and for the purposes of the retained revenue account of the  
41 Soldiers' Home.

42 The council shall file a report detailing the amount of funds collected and expended from  
43 the fund along with a copy of the written criteria used to expend funds to the house and senate  
44 committees on ways and means not later than April 15 of each calendar year. An amount not to  
45 exceed 5 per cent of the total funds deposited in the fund may be expended by the council for  
46 administrative costs directly attributable to the grants and programs funded by the fund,  
47 including, but not limited to the costs of clerical and support personnel. Any unexpended balance  
48 of monies in the fund at the end of the fiscal year shall not revert to the General Fund but shall  
49 remain available for expenditure from such fund in subsequent fiscal years. No expenditure made  
50 from the fund shall cause the fund to become deficient at any point during the fiscal year.

51 SECTION 2. Section 2 of chapter 90 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2008  
52 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the eighteenth paragraph the following  
53 new paragraph:-

54 The registrar shall furnish to owners of private passenger motor vehicles and motorcycle  
55 veteran and military special plates issued and renewed without charge, information about the

56 purpose of the Train Vets to Treat Vets Fund upon registration or renewal presentation by the  
57 applicant or surviving spouse to the registrar. The applicant or surviving spouse may elect to  
58 contribute an amount to the Train Vets to Treat Vets Fund consistent with donations by non-  
59 veteran or non-military special plate registrants to charitable organizations identified on these  
60 special plates and if they do so elect, shall retain a distinctive Train Vets to Treat Vets Fund  
61 emblem for their private passenger motor vehicle or motorcycle veteran and military special  
62 plate use upon payment of the registration donation amount established by the registrar.