

HOUSE No. 3238

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Thomas P. Conroy

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 special commission relative to gun violence and the reduction of poverty in the Commonwealth.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Thomas P. Conroy</i>	<i>13th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/18/2013</i>
<i>Paul McMurtry</i>	<i>11th Norfolk</i>	
<i>Tom Sannicandro</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>	
<i>Kay Khan</i>	<i>11th Middlesex</i>	
<i>Byron Rushing</i>	<i>9th Suffolk</i>	<i>2/1/2013</i>
<i>Carolyn C. Dykema</i>	<i>8th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/31/2013</i>
<i>Martha M. Walz</i>	<i>8th Suffolk</i>	
<i>Ruth B. Balsler</i>	<i>12th Middlesex</i>	
<i>Denise Provost</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>	
<i>Jason M. Lewis</i>	<i>Fifth Middlesex</i>	
<i>Christine E. Canavan</i>	<i>10th Plymouth</i>	
<i>Cory Atkins</i>	<i>14th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/31/2013</i>

HOUSE No. 3238

By Mr. Conroy of Wayland, a petition (accompanied by resolve, House, No. 3238) of Thomas P. Conroy and others for an investigation by a special commission (including members of the General Court) relative to reducing poverty in the Commonwealth . Public Safety and Homeland Security.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Thirteen

Resolve to establish a special commission relative to gun violence and the reduction of poverty in the Commonwealth.

1 **Resolved**, A special commission is hereby established to investigate and study how
2 poverty in the commonwealth can be reduced by at least 10% in the next five years and 20% in
3 the next ten years by engaging the public, private, and non-profit sectors within Boston, the 24
4 gateway cities of the Commonwealth, and Framingham. The investigation and study shall
5 include, but not be limited to: (a) appropriate measures of poverty; (b) the root causes of poverty;
6 (c) analysis of income inequality in Massachusetts, in particular examining the number of people
7 and families in the commonwealth living below 200% of the federal poverty level and the socio-
8 economic challenges they face, while also calculating the number of people and families living at
9 multiples above the federal poverty level; (d) violence in urban areas, particularly gun violence,
10 and its effect on youth, commercial activity, and job opportunities in the community; (e) the
11 number and types of existing jobs and the economically competitive strengths within gateway
12 cities and Framingham; (f) obstacles to job opportunities for the poor; (g) recent examples and
13 categories of successful paths out of poverty for youth, families, and neighborhoods; and (h)
14 successful approaches and innovative system change efforts to reducing poverty and violence
15 from within the commonwealth and throughout North America. The commission shall also
16 produce data, estimates, and conduct analysis on the potential long-term municipal and state
17 government savings that would result from effective poverty reduction efforts throughout the
18 commonwealth as the number of people in need of government safety net spending is reduced.
19 The commission shall establish and methodology for calculating annually relevant and
20 appropriate metrics of poverty in the commonwealth.

21 The commission shall consist of 23 members as follows: the Governor, or a designee; the
22 Secretary of Housing and Economic Development, or a designee; the Secretary of Health and

23 Human Services, or a designee; the Secretary of Transportation, or a designee; the Secretary of
24 Labor and Workforce Development, or a designee; the Secretary of Education, or a designee; the
25 Secretary of Administration and Finance, or a designee; the Secretary of Public Safety and
26 Security, or a designee; two appointees to be chosen by the Speaker of the House of
27 Representatives; two appointees to be chosen by the Senate President; one appointee to be
28 chosen by the House Minority Leader; one appointee to be chosen by the Senate Minority
29 Leader; one appointee to be chosen by the Massachusetts Mayors Association; one appointee to
30 be chosen by the Massachusetts Non-Profit Network; one appointee to be chosen by the
31 MassInc.; one appointee to be chosen by a Massachusetts based philanthropic foundation; one
32 appointee to be chosen by FSG or similar social impact consultant; one appointee to be chosen
33 by the Institute for a Competitive Inner-City; one appointee to be chosen by the Massachusetts
34 Budget and Policy Center; one appointee to be chosen by the Boston Chamber of Commerce;
35 and one appointee to be chosen by the Massachusetts Council of Churches.

36 The commission shall issue a report to the governor and the general court that includes its
37 findings and recommendations, with outlines of legislation necessary to carry its
38 recommendations into effect, by filing the same with the Clerks of the House of Representatives
39 and the Senate on or before November 30, 2013.