

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 137**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***Timothy R. Whelan and Richard J. Ross***

*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 establishing a low vision registry.

PETITION OF:

| NAME:                    | DISTRICT/ADDRESS:                     | DATE ADDED:      |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------|
| <i>Timothy R. Whelan</i> | <i>1st Barnstable</i>                 | <i>1/15/2015</i> |
| <i>Richard J. Ross</i>   | <i>Norfolk, Bristol and Middlesex</i> | <i>1/15/2015</i> |
| <i>Todd M. Smola</i>     | <i>1st Hampden</i>                    | <i>8/16/2019</i> |
| <i>David Paul Linsky</i> | <i>5th Middlesex</i>                  | <i>8/16/2019</i> |
| <i>Chris Walsh</i>       | <i>6th Middlesex</i>                  | <i>8/16/2019</i> |
| <i>Tom Sannicandro</i>   | <i>7th Middlesex</i>                  | <i>8/16/2019</i> |

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 137**

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By Representative Whelan of Brewster and Senator Ross, a joint petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 137) of Timothy R. Whelan and others relative to establishing a low-vision registry and improving access to information for the Commonwealth Registry of the Blind. Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities.

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

**In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court  
(2015-2016)**

An Act establishing a low vision registry.

*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 6 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2014 Official Edition, is  
2 hereby amended by inserting after section 135 the following section:-

3           Section 135A. The Commissioner shall create a registry list of persons whose visual  
4 acuity is found to be with correction 20/60 or less in the better eye, or the peripheral field of  
5 vision to have contracted to the ten degrees radius or less regardless of visual acuity. Said  
6 register shall be used to aid the commission in efforts to measure the numbers of likely future  
7 registrants to the Commonwealth Registry of the Blind. Such persons shall not be eligible for  
8 services from the Commission until the standard of legal blindness is met.

9           The reporting requirements contained in section 136 of this chapter shall apply to this  
10 section.