

HOUSE No. 1943

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Michael J. Finn

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 to study the use of harm reduction.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Michael J. Finn</i>	<i>6th Hampden</i>	<i>1/12/2015</i>

HOUSE No. 1943

By Mr. Finn of West Springfield, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1943) of Michael J. Finn for legislation to study the use of harm reduction as a strategy for reducing cigarette smoking. Public Health.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 3397 OF 2013-2014.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act to study the use of harm reduction.

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. Notwithstanding any general or special law or rule or regulation to the
2 contrary, the Department of Public Health is hereby directed and authorized to conduct a
3 comprehensive study evaluating and making recommendations regarding the use of harm
4 reduction as a strategy for reducing cigarette smoking in the Commonwealth and thereby
5 reducing death, disease and health care costs associated with the use of cigarettes. Said study
6 may include, but not be limited to, strategies to reduce the harm associated with smoking for
7 individuals who will not otherwise abstain, reduce the harm associated with a number of risk
8 behaviors and recognize any potential benefits in encouraging cigarette smokers who will not
9 cease smoking altogether to switch to tobacco products that pose less serious health risks. The
10 study shall recognize the growing data from scientific studies showing that the health risks

11 associated with smokeless tobacco products are significantly lower than the risks associated with
12 cigarettes.

13 The Department of Public Health shall submit a written report, including
14 recommendations and drafts of any legislation, to the clerks of the Senate and House of
15 Representatives and the Joint Committee on Public Health within six months of the effective date
16 of this act.