

HOUSE No. 4281

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, May 12, 2016.

The committee on Transportation to whom was referred the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3025) of Louis L. Kafka and others for an investigation by a special task force relative to identifying existing structural or policy-based impediments to delivering a more comprehensive and efficient transportation system for the senior, disabled, and veteran populations, reports recommending that the accompanying bill (House, No. 4281) ought to pass.

For the committee,

WILLIAM M. STRAUS.

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

An Act establishing an taskforce on the transportation of elders, veterans, and those with disabilities.

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. There shall be a special task force convened to identify existing structural
2 or policy-based impediments to delivering a more comprehensive and efficient transportation
3 system for the senior, disabled, and veteran populations of the Commonwealth.

4 The task force shall consist of 11 members: 1 of whom shall be the Secretary of Elder
5 Affairs or their designee, who shall serve as co-chair; 1 of whom shall be the Secretary of
6 Transportation or their designee, who shall serve as co-chair; 1 of whom shall be the Secretary of
7 Veterans Affairs or their designee; 1 of whom shall be the executive director of the
8 Massachusetts Councils on Aging; 1 of whom shall be the executive director of the Disabled
9 Persons Protection Commission; 1 of whom shall be the general manager of the Massachusetts
10 Bay Transit Authority, or their designee; 1 of whom shall be a representative of the
11 Massachusetts Regional Transit Authorities; 1 of whom shall be the executive director of the
12 Massachusetts Municipal Association; 1 of whom shall be a representative of the Disabled
13 American Veterans Department of Massachusetts; 1 of whom shall be a representative of the

14 Massachusetts Office on Disability; and 1 of whom shall be a representative of the Human
15 Service Transportation Office.

16 In its examination, the task force shall review how transit service is currently provided to
17 the senior, disabled, and veteran population of the Commonwealth by both public and private
18 means and identify problems owing to redundancy and overlapping jurisdictions/service areas in
19 both the scheduling and delivery of transportation services. The task force shall also review the
20 manner in which elderly and disabled persons are deemed eligible for services, including but not
21 limited to the RIDE and other paratransit services, and shall identify an appropriate certification
22 process that imposes the least burden on persons seeking certification or re-certification. The
23 task force shall then draft recommendations to improve the way transportation is provided to the
24 elder, disabled, and veteran populations in a more efficient, cost-effective manner.

25 The task force shall submit its report, findings, recommendations and any proposed
26 legislation and regulatory changes to the Governor, the joint committee on Elder Affairs, and the
27 joint committee on Transportation not later than July 1, 2017.