

SENATE No. 1147

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Jennifer L. Flanagan

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 commission on malnutrition prevention.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Jennifer L. Flanagan</i>	<i>Worcester and Middlesex</i>
<i>Kate Hogan</i>	<i>3rd Middlesex</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>

SENATE No. 1147

By Ms. Flanagan, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1147) of Jennifer L. Flanagan, Kate Hogan and James B. Eldridge for legislation to establish a commission on malnutrition prevention. Public Health.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act establishing a commission on malnutrition prevention.

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

1 Chapter 111 is hereby amended by adding the following new section.

2 Section XXX. There shall be a commission on malnutrition prevention within the
3 department. The commission shall consist of the commissioner of public health or the
4 commissioner’s designee, who shall chair the commission; the secretary of elder affairs or the
5 secretary’s designee; the commissioner of the department of transitional assistance or the
6 commissioner’s designee; the commissioner of the department of agricultural resources or his
7 designee; the co-chairs of the joint committee on elder affairs of the or their designees; and nine
8 members to be appointed by the governor, 1 of whom shall be a physician, 1 of whom shall be a
9 university researcher, 1 of whom shall be a community-based registered dietitian nutritionist
10 working with older Americans act funded programs, 1 of whom shall be a representative of
11 hospitals or integrated health systems, 2 of whom shall be nurses working in home care, 1 of
12 whom shall be a registered dietitian nutritionist working with a long-term care or assisted living

13 facility, 1 of whom shall be a registered dietitian nutritionist representing the Massachusetts
14 Dietetic Association, and 1 of whom shall be a representative from the Massachusetts
15 Association of Councils on Aging, Inc.

16 The commission on malnutrition prevention shall make an investigation and
17 comprehensive study of the effects of malnutrition on older adults in the commonwealth and of
18 the most effective strategies for reducing it. The commission shall also monitor the effects of
19 malnutrition among older adults on health care costs and outcomes, quality indicators, and
20 quality of life measures. In addition, the commission shall: (1) Consider strategies to improve
21 data collection and analysis to identify malnutrition risk, health care cost data and protective
22 factors for older adults; (2) Assess the risk and measure the incidence of malnutrition occurring
23 in various settings across the continuum of care and the impact of care transitions; (3) Identify
24 evidence-based strategies that raise public awareness of older adult malnutrition such as through
25 educational materials, social marketing, state-wide campaigns, and public health events; (4)
26 Identify evidence-based strategies, including community nutrition programs, used to reduce the
27 rate of malnutrition among older adults and reduce the rate of re-hospitalizations and healthcare
28 acquired infections related to malnutrition; (5) Consider strategies to maximize the dissemination
29 of proven, effective malnutrition prevention interventions including community nutrition
30 programs, medical nutrition therapy, and oral nutrition supplements and identify barriers to those
31 interventions; (6) Examine the components and key elements of the above malnutrition
32 prevention initiatives, consider their applicability in the Commonwealth and develop strategies
33 for pilot-testing, implementation and evaluation.