

SENATE No. 1672

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Brian A. Joyce

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 creating a commission to examine accessibility for persons with disabilities in public buildings.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Brian A. Joyce

Norfolk, Bristol and Plymouth

Michael J. Barrett

Third Middlesex

SENATE No. 1672

By Mr. Joyce, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1672) of Brian A. Joyce for legislation to create a commission to examine accessibility for persons with disabilities in public buildings. State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act creating a commission to examine accessibility for persons with disabilities in public buildings.

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

1 There shall be an advisory commission which shall study the accessibility and
2 participation of persons with disabilities, including but not limited to those who have hearing,
3 visual, mobility, sensory, mental, or cognitive impairments in public buildings and associated
4 events. The advisory commission shall make recommendations to the legislature and governor
5 regarding opportunities to improve accessibility and participation. Access and participation shall
6 include, but not be limited to, both physical access and access to services, including any
7 necessary accommodations necessary for communication during public events.

8 The advisory commission shall (i) review the requirements of current federal and state
9 laws relative to the rights of persons who are deaf and hard of hearing or who are visually
10 impaired or blind; (ii) determine the extent to which state and local government buildings and
11 facilities are in compliance with such laws; (iii) determine ways to improve and enhance access
12 to public accommodations and services; (iv) consider such other related issues as may be

13 necessary to address the needs of persons who are deaf and hard of hearing or who are visually
14 impaired or blind in accessing public buildings, accommodations, and services; and (v) offer
15 such recommendations as the advisory commission may deem necessary and appropriate.

16 The advisory commission shall consist of XX members, 1 of whom shall be the
17 commissioner of the division of capital asset management and maintenance or her designee, who
18 shall be a co-chair; 1 of whom shall be the director of the Massachusetts office on disability or a
19 designee, who shall be a co-chair; 1 of whom shall be the state auditor or a designee; 1 of whom
20 shall be the secretary of administration and finance or a designee; 1 of whom shall be the
21 attorney general or a designee; 2 of whom shall be the chairs of the joint committee on state
22 administration and regulatory oversight or designees. The advisory commission shall consult
23 with appropriate representatives of the disability community, including, but not limited to, the
24 Massachusetts commission for the blind, the Massachusetts commission for the deaf and hard of
25 hearing, the Massachusetts registry for interpreters of the deaf the Boston Center for Independent
26 Living or a similar Independent Living Center, the ARC of Massachusetts, the National Alliance
27 on Mental Illness, the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, the Clubhouse Coalition, and the
28 Developmental Disabilities Council.

29 The advisory commission shall file a report with its findings, including any legislative
30 and regulatory recommendations, with the clerks of the senate and house of representatives and
31 the joint committee on state administration and oversight, not later than 12 months after the
32 effective date of this act.

33 All agencies of the commonwealth shall provide assistance to the advisory commission
34 upon request of the chair.