SENATE . . . . . No. 1984

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

SENATE, Thursday July 30, 2015

The committee on Housing to whom was referred the petition (accompanied by resolve, Senate, No. 709) of Joan B. Lovely, Bradford R. Hill, Leah Cole, William N. Brownsberger and other members of the General Court for legislation to create a commission to study ways to prevent bullying of tenants in public and subsidized multi-family housing,- reports the accompanying resolve (Senate, No. 1984).

For the committee,
Linda Dorcena Forry

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

Resolve creating a commission to study ways to prevent bullying of tenants in public and subsidized multi-family housing.

Resolved, there is hereby established a commission to consist of 19 members, 1 of whom shall be the secretary of the executive office of health and human services, or a designee, who shall serve as chair of the commission; 1 of whom shall be the attorney general, or a designee; 1 of whom shall be the secretary of the executive office of elder affairs, or a designee; 1 of whom shall be the undersecretary of the department of housing and community development, or a designee; 1 of whom shall be the commissioner of the department of mental health, or a designee; 2 of whom shall be the chairs of the joint committee on housing, or their designees; 2 of whom shall be the chairs of the joint committee on elder affairs, or their designees; 2 of whom shall be the chairs of the joint committee on mental health and substance abuse, or their designees; 1 of whom shall be appointed by the minority leader of the house of representatives; 1 of whom shall be appointed by the minority leader of the senate; and 6 of whom shall be appointed by the governor, and shall be representatives of housing and consumer protection advocacy organizations, such as the Massachusetts Association of Independent Living Centers, Jewish Family and Children's Services, Massachusetts Alliance of HUD Tenants, Massachusetts Union of Public Housing Tenants, MassNAHRO, Stop Bullying Coalition, and legal services

16 organizations such as Mass Law Reform Institute and Disability Law Center, and individuals
17 with direct experience and knowledge of the issue that can contribute to the commission.

18 The commission shall study the prevalence and impact of the bullying of tenants, with a
19 focus on elderly and disabled tenants, in public and subsidized multi-family housing. This shall
20 include, but not be limited to identifying the conditions that give rise to and cause bullying;
21 researching and investigating successful methods for preventing bullying in other contexts,
22 including but not limited to schools, nursing homes, assisted living, the workplace, and housing.
23 This research shall be used to identify and develop best practices; raise public awareness; and
24 propose public policy recommendations and legislation necessary to protect tenants from harm
25 and preserve their rights.

26 The commission shall identify and invite to participate and contribute individuals with
27 experience and knowledge of bullying in public or subsidized housing including tenants who
28 have been victimized by bullying, managers who coordinate resident services, industry
29 professionals and stakeholders, and individuals who have direct experience with bullying
30 prevention. The commission shall hold public meetings in various locations throughout the
31 Commonwealth in recognition of the difficulty some individuals may have in travelling long
32 distances to attend commission meetings.

33 The commission shall submit its findings and recommendations with the clerks of the
34 house of representatives and senate, the joint committee on housing, the joint committee on elder
35 affairs and the joint committee on mental health and substance abuse not later than December 31,
36 2016.