

SENATE No. 2296

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court
(2015-2016)
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SENATE, Monday, May 16, 2016

The committee on Rules, to whom was referred the Senate Bill establishing the special commission on local and regional public health (Senate, No. 2128),-- reports, recommending that the same ought to pass with an amendment substituting a “Resolve establishing the special commission on local and regional public health” (Senate, No. 2296).

For the committee,
Mark C. Montigny

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court
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Resolve establishing the special commission on local and regional public health.

1 **Resolved**, that there shall be a special commission on local and regional public health to
2 assess the effectiveness and efficiency of municipal and regional public health systems and to
3 make recommendations regarding how to strengthen the delivery of public health services and
4 preventive measures.

5 The commission shall consist of : the secretary of administration and finance or a
6 designee; the commissioner of public health or a designee, who shall serve as chair of the
7 commission; the commissioner of environmental protection or a designee; the commissioner of
8 agricultural resources or a designee; 1 member of the house of representatives; 1 member of
9 senate; a representative of the Massachusetts Municipal Association; a representative of the
10 Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation; a representative of the Massachusetts Public Health
11 Association; a representative of the Massachusetts Health Officers Association; the
12 Massachusetts Association of Health Boards; a representative of the Massachusetts
13 Environmental Health Association; a representative of the Massachusetts Association of Public
14 Health Nurses; a representative of the Western Massachusetts Public Health Association; a
15 representative of the Massachusetts Public Health Regionalization Project working group at

16 Boston University School of Public Health; and 7 persons to be appointed by the governor, 1 of
17 whom shall be a representative of a research or academic institution with experience in public
18 health data collection and analysis; 1 of whom shall be a representative of a community health
19 center; 1 of whom shall be a representative of a hospital system; 1 of whom shall have expertise
20 in public health workforce development; 1 of whom shall be a public health representative of a
21 municipality with a population greater than 50,000; 1 of whom shall be a public health
22 representative of a municipality with a population between 5,000 and 50,000; and 1 of whom
23 shall be a public health representative of a regional service model that includes at least 1 town
24 with a population of less than 5,000. At least 2 members of the commission shall be
25 representatives from municipalities with public health regional service models.

26 The commission shall: (i) examine the capacity of local and regional public health
27 authorities in comparison to national public health standards and recommendations from the
28 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Public Health Accreditation Board, the National
29 Association of County and City Health Officials, the National Association of Local Boards of
30 Health, the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials and other relevant organizations;
31 (ii) assess the capacity of local public health authorities to carry out their statutory powers and
32 duties; (iii) evaluate existing municipal and state resources for local health and assess per capita
33 funding levels within municipalities for local health; (iv) evaluate the workforce credentials of
34 the current and future public health workforce as to educational standards, credentialing and
35 training; (v) assess the current capacity of the office of local and regional health within the
36 department of public health; (vi) evaluate existing regional collaboration and various models of
37 service delivery across the commonwealth, including stand-alone, shared service and fully
38 comprehensive regional districts; and (vii) determine the commonwealth's progress towards

39 achieving recommendations made by the Massachusetts regionalization advisory commission
40 pursuant to chapter 60 of the acts of 2009.

41 The commission may solicit public input through public hearings and testimony.