

SENATE No. 2466

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

SENATE, Wednesday, July 27, 2016

The committee on Ways and Means, to whom was referred the Senate Bill establishing a task force relative to the Commonwealth's direct-care workforce (Senate, No. 77),-- reports, recommending that the same ought to pass with an amendment substituting a new draft entitled "An Act relative to the commonwealth's direct-care workforce for elderly and disabled consumers" (Senate, No. 2466).

For the committee,
Karen E. Spilka

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An Act relative to the commonwealth's direct-care workforce for elderly and disabled consumers.

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. The third paragraph of subsection (c) of section 16 of chapter 19A of the
2 General Laws, as appearing in the 2014 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding the
3 following sentence:-

4 The department shall require designated local agencies to provide or otherwise ensure
5 training is provided to protective services caseworkers on recognizing the signs and symptoms of
6 cognitive impairments, including Alzheimer’s disease, and understanding the effect of cognitive
7 impairment on screening, investigation and service planning.

8 SECTION 2. The commissioner of elder affairs, in conjunction with the secretary of
9 labor and workforce development and the secretary of education, shall assess and report on the
10 commonwealth’s direct care workforce and its preparedness to provide long-term services and
11 supports to the growing population of elderly and disabled consumers.

12 The report shall include, but not be limited to, an assessment of: (i) the current direct care
13 workforce data and recommendations for improvement; and (ii) the infrastructure for supporting

14 the efficient provision of long-term services and supports and mechanisms for ensuring quality
15 and recommendations for improvement including: (A) an analysis of current and projected
16 workforce capacity to provide the workforce view of the commonwealth's report on consumers
17 of long-term services and supports; (B) an assessment of the current training and credentialing
18 infrastructure and recommendations for strengthening the current system including strategies for
19 increasing the professionalism of the workforce; (C) an assessment of the quality of support for
20 consumers as employers, supervisors and trainers and recommendations for improvement; and
21 (D) an assessment of the adequacy of the existing infrastructure for connecting consumers and
22 workers and recommendations for improvement including the feasibility of expanding the
23 existing personal care attendant referral directory.

24 The report shall be filed with the clerks of the senate and house of representatives, the
25 chairs of the senate and house committees on ways and means, the senate and house chairs of the
26 joint committee on children, families and person with disabilities, the senate and house chairs of
27 the joint committee on labor and workforce development and the senate and house chairs of the
28 joint committee on elder affairs not later than September 1, 2017.