

SENATE No. 77

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Patricia D. Jehlen

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 task force relative to the Commonwealth's direct-care workforce.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Patricia D. Jehlen</i>	<i>Second Middlesex</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>
<i>Barbara A. L'Italien</i>	<i>Second Essex and Middlesex</i>

SENATE No. 77

By Ms. Jehlen, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 77) of Patricia D. Jehlen, James B. Eldridge and Barbara L'Italien for legislation to establish a task force relative to the Commonwealth's direct-care workforce. Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. 1846 OF 2013-2014.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act establishing a task force relative to the Commonwealth's direct-care workforce.

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. There is hereby established a task force to assess the Commonwealth's
2 direct-care workforce and its preparedness to provide long term care services and supports to the
3 growing population of elderly and disabled consumers. The executive office of health and
4 human services will convene the task force to include, at a minimum, members of the executive
5 office of health and human services and the executive office of labor and workforce
6 development. Other members of government entities providing management, delivery or
7 funding of direct-care services and employment, and members of organizations representing
8 direct-care workers, shall also be included. The task force will report on the following:

9 (a) Assessment of current direct-care workforce data and recommendations for
10 improvement including:

11 (1) Collection of all available sources of data on the workforce, across all direct care
12 occupations. This data will include: (a) numbers of direct service workers (full time and part
13 time), (b) stability of workforce (turnover and vacancies), and (c) average compensation of
14 workers (wages and benefits);

15 (2) Identification of gaps in data;

16 (3) A plan for collecting and analyzing this workforce data on a biennial basis;

17 (4) Recommendations on how to develop a sustainable, regular reporting system.

18 (b) Assessment of infrastructure for supporting the efficient provision of long term
19 services and supports and mechanisms for ensuring quality and recommendations for
20 improvement, including:

21 (1) An analysis of current and projected workforce capacity, to provide the workforce
22 view of the state's report on consumers of long-term services and supports (LTSS), "Long-term
23 Supports in Massachusetts: A Profile of Service Users"; analysis will include, but is not limited
24 to:

25 • A profile of current paraprofessional workforce capacity by LTSS program;

26 • A description of the basic employment characteristics of Massachusetts' direct-care
27 occupations;

28 • An examination of current service utilization patterns, projected caseloads, and state
29 rebalancing objectives to project future needed workforce capacity;

30 • An exploration of unmet need in Massachusetts;

31 • An assessment of the implications of the Massachusetts “care gap,” the approaching
32 increased need for direct-care workers coinciding with the expected decrease in the number of
33 women aged 25-54 entering the labor force; and,

34 • Recommendations for changes in public policy and provider practice to promote
35 staff retention and lower turnover.

36 (2) An assessment of the current training and credentialing infrastructure and
37 recommendations for strengthening the current system, including strategies for increasing the
38 professionalism of the workforce;

39 (3) An assessment of the quality of support for consumers as employers, supervisors
40 and trainers and recommendations for improvement; and,

41 (4) An assessment of the adequacy of the existing infrastructure for connecting
42 consumers and workers and recommendations for improvement including the feasibility of
43 expanding the existing PCA referral directory.

44 SECTION 2. The task force will present an initial report to the governor, the house ways
45 and means committee, the senate ways and means committee, the joint committee on children,
46 families, and persons with disabilities, the joint committee on labor and workforce development,
47 and the joint committee on elder affairs no later than one year following the effective date of this
48 act.