

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 1931**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

*Stephen Kulik*

*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 to provide for a special commission to study veteran’s benefits.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Stephen Kulik</i>	<i>1st Franklin</i>	<i>1/19/2017</i>
<i>Steven S. Howitt</i>	<i>4th Bristol</i>	
<i>James M. Murphy</i>	<i>4th Norfolk</i>	
<i>Chris Walsh</i>	<i>6th Middlesex</i>	
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	
<i>Michael O. Moore</i>	<i>Second Worcester</i>	
<i>Mathew Muratore</i>	<i>1st Plymouth</i>	
<i>Thomas J. Calter</i>	<i>12th Plymouth</i>	

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By Mr. Kulik of Worthington, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1931) of Stephen Kulik and others for an investigation by a special commission (including members of the General Court) relative to state and local services provided to veterans. Veterans and Federal Affairs.

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[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE HOUSE, NO. 3142 OF 2015-2016.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**In the One Hundred and Ninetieth General Court  
(2017-2018)**  
\_\_\_\_\_

An Act to provide for a special commission to study veteran’s benefits.

*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 a special commission to study and make recommendations pursuant to  
2 chapters 13 and 115 of the General Laws. The Commission shall study and evaluate current  
3 laws, regulations and practices related to providing services and other support to military  
4 veterans and to make recommendations to improve the quality, effectiveness and efficiency of  
5 state and local programs.

6           The committee shall consist of 11 members: 1 member of the senate who shall be the  
7 chair of the joint committee on veterans and federal affairs or a designee; who shall serve as co-  
8 chair of the commission; 1 member of the house of representatives who shall be the chair of the  
9 joint committee on veterans and federal affairs or a designee, who shall serve as co-chair of the  
10 commission; the secretary of the department of veterans’ services or a designee; the

11 undersecretary of the office of consumer affairs and business regulation or a designee; the  
12 Secretary of Administration and Finance or a designee; the president of the Mass. Veterans'  
13 Service Agents Association, Inc. or a designee; the executive director of the Massachusetts  
14 Municipal Association or a designee; the president of the Local Officials Human Services  
15 Council or a designee; the veterans' benefits and services commissioner in and for the city of  
16 Boston; and two unaffiliated veterans, acting as private citizens not employed by a city, town, or  
17 group providing services to veterans, appointed by the Governor with consideration to veterans  
18 disabled in combat since 2001.

19         The Commission shall study and evaluate the current system for identifying veterans in  
20 need of services, providing, administering and financing services and access to services, and  
21 coordinating the actions of federal, state and local government agencies in a manner that is  
22 effective and efficient.

23         The Commission shall evaluate the fiscal impact on local government of the current  
24 system of municipal financing of veterans' benefits subject to reimbursement through the state  
25 budget and of the rules governing state and local administration of the program. The  
26 Commission shall consider alternative methods of financing and administration, including  
27 regionalization, that would improve services to veterans, and be more efficient.

28         The commission shall convene the first official meeting on or before April 1, 2018. The  
29 commission shall file the report of the study with recommendations for legislation not later than  
30 December 1, 2018 with the clerks of the house of representatives and senate who shall forward  
31 the same to the house and senate committees on ways and means and the joint committee on  
32 veterans and federal affairs.