

HOUSE No. 3827

Section 138 contained in the engrossed Bill making appropriations for the fiscal year 2018 (see House, No. 3800), which had been returned by His Excellency the Governor with recommendation of amendment (for message, see Attachment K of House, No. 3828). July 17, 2017.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to a study of the trauma registry in the Department of Public Health.

Whereas, The deferred operation of this act would tend to defeat its purpose, which is to establish forthwith a study of trauma registry data, therefore it is hereby declared to be an emergency law, necessary for the immediate preservation of the public convenience.

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 shall be a commission to investigate ways to increase access and
2 interoperability of data collected by the department of public health, including the trauma
3 registry established pursuant to section 11 of chapter 111C of the General Laws.

4 The commission shall evaluate ways to encourage the utilization of data collected from
5 the trauma registry to study the patterns and impact of healthcare inequality and develop support
6 programs and resources necessary to meet the unmet needs of residents of the commonwealth
7 affected by healthcare inequality and their families. The commission may consider methods to
8 encourage partnerships with academic medical centers and schools of public health to analyze
9 and interpret existing data collected by the commonwealth, including data collected through the

10 trauma registry, to ascertain geographical differences in healthcare access and quality. The
11 commission may request information from state, county or municipal departments, boards,
12 bureaus, commissions or agencies to further the goals of the commission.

13 The commission shall be comprised of: the commissioner of public health or a designee,
14 who shall serve as chair; the senate and house chairs of the joint committee on public health; 1
15 member of the senate who shall be appointed by the minority leader; 1 member of the house who
16 shall be appointed by the minority leader; and 4 persons who shall be appointed by the
17 commissioner in consultation with the Massachusetts Chapter of the American College of
18 Surgeons, Inc. and the chair of the American College of Surgeons, committee on trauma, 2 of
19 whom shall be a research scientists with an expertise in healthcare quality and disparity with
20 experience in medicine and public health and 2 of whom shall be members of the public with
21 expertise in injury prevention or trauma surgery. The commission may hold public hearings;
22 provided, however, that the hearings shall be held in a manner to ensure diverse geographic
23 representation.

24 The department shall hold its first meeting on or before November 1, 2017. The
25 commission shall file a report of its recommendations, if any, together with any
26 recommendations for legislation, with the clerks of the senate and the house of representatives on
27 or before December 31, 2018.

28 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect as of July 1, 2017.