

# Senate . . . . . No. 2037

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Majority Report on the Governor's Reorganization Plan No. 1 of 2017 (submitted by the Governor pursuant to Article LXXXVII of the Amendments to the Constitution) An Act to reorganize the Department of Public Safety (House, No. 68).

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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Majority Report

On

The Governor's Reorganization Plan

No. 1 of 2017

(submitted by the Governor pursuant to [Article LXXXVII of the Amendments to the Constitution](#))

An Act to reorganize the Department of Public Safety

House, No. 68

# **MAJORITY REPORT**

## **House No. 68**

### **An Act to Reorganize the Department of Public Safety.**

**January 25, 2017**

H. 68 is the Governor's reorganization plan for the Department of Public Safety. The legislation is filed under Article LXXXVII of the Amendments to the Constitution and its adoption is therefore subject to a limited time frame as well as not being open to amendment by Committee or the General Court.

H. 68 transfers non- fire related functions currently within the Department of Public Safety to the Division of Professional Licensure by establishing an Office of Public Safety and Inspections within the Division of Professional Licensure under the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development. It then transfers fire-related functions to the Department of Fire Services.

The legislation is designed to realign the functions of licensing and inspection more closely with their areas of expertise. The expectation is that customer service will be improved by creating one-stop shopping for the majority of license approvals. Currently, individual licensees may be required to utilize several different agencies for various aspects of licensing in their field. In addition to increasing efficiencies and eliminating redundancies, the Commonwealth expects to save approximately \$800,000 in FY2018. The legislation also makes technical amendments to remove outdated statutory references and update language.

The Committee finds that the plan to realign the functions of licensing within the Division of Professional Licensure and the Department of Fire Services will improve customer service without jeopardizing any of the current safety and inspection responsibilities of the Commonwealth. For all intents and purposes, licensing requirements and duties to inspect will not change as a result of the reorganization. The only noticeable change will be the agency under which the jurisdiction for licensing and inspection will fall. For these reasons, the Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight recommends the petition ought to be approved.

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