

# SENATE . . . . . No. 2451

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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In the One Hundred and Ninetieth General Court  
(2017-2018)  
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SENATE, Monday, April 23, 2018

The committee on Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery, to whom was referred the petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1089) of Kenneth J. Donnelly, Paul R. Heroux and Thomas M. Stanley for legislation relative to mental health peer specialists certification,- reports the accompanying resolve (Senate, No. 2451).

For the committee,  
Cindy F. Friedman

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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In the One Hundred and Ninetieth General Court  
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Resolve relative to mental health peer specialists certification.

1           **Resolved**, There shall be a special commission to investigate, study, and evaluate the  
2 scope of mental health peer support programs in all regions of the commonwealth to determine  
3 the scope of peer programs, classification and types of peer specialists, and appropriate training  
4 and certification requirements for such programs. The commission shall consist of the co-chairs  
5 of the joint committee on mental health, substance use and recovery, who shall serve as co-chairs  
6 of the commission; the secretary of health and human services or a designee who is a medical  
7 professional; the commissioner of mental health or a designee who is a medical professional; the  
8 commissioner of public health or a designee; the director of Medicaid or a designee; 1  
9 representative appointed by the commissioner of the Massachusetts rehabilitation commission or  
10 a designee; 1 representative from the Transformation Center, a statewide peer-job training  
11 organization; 1 representative from the Massachusetts Behavioral Health Partnership; 1  
12 representative from the Association for Behavioral Healthcare; 1 representative from the  
13 National Alliance on Mental Illness Massachusetts; 1 individual with lived experience as a  
14 consumer of mental health services appointed by the co-chairs of the commission; and 1 family  
15 member of a mental health consumer appointed by the co-chairs of the commission.

16           The commission study shall include, but not be limited to, an examination and  
17 identification of best practices related to training and credential requirements for peer specialist  
18 programs, including: (1) types and categories of services provided by peer programs, including  
19 support, rehabilitation and clinical programs; (2) types and categories of services that require  
20 certification; (3) supervision required for categories of services that require certification; (4)  
21 hours of formal work or volunteer experience related to mental health and substance use  
22 disorders conducted through such programs; (5) types of peer-support specialist exams required  
23 for such programs; (6) codes of ethics used by such programs; (7) required or recommended skill  
24 sets for such programs; (8) requirements for continuing education; (9) any other criteria  
25 necessary to develop peer specialist certification requirements; and (10) best practices from other  
26 states.

27           The commission shall submit its findings and recommendations, together with drafts of  
28 legislation necessary to carry those recommendations into effect by filing the same with the  
29 clerks of the house of representatives and senate, to the department of mental health and the joint  
30 committee on mental health, substance use and recovery not later than 1 year after the passage of  
31 this resolve.