HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 1306 FILED ON: 1/16/2019

HOUSE . . . . . No. 130

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Kate Hogan

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 special commission to study women and homelessness.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
Kate Hogan	*3rd Middlesex*	*1/16/2019*
Alice Hanlon Peisch	*14th Norfolk*	*1/18/2019*
David Paul Linsky	*5th Middlesex*	*1/18/2019*
Carolyn C. Dykema	*8th Middlesex*	*1/24/2019*
Dylan A. Fernandes	*Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket*	*1/25/2019*
Brian M. Ashe	*2nd Hampden*	*1/25/2019*
Harriette L. Chandler	*First Worcester*	*1/29/2019*
Kevin G. Honan	*17th Suffolk*	*1/29/2019*
Elizabeth A. Malia	*11th Suffolk*	*1/29/2019*
Elizabeth A. Poirier	*14th Bristol*	*1/29/2019*
Rebecca L. Rausch	*Norfolk, Bristol and Middlesex*	*1/30/2019*
James J. O'Day	*14th Worcester*	*1/30/2019*
Susan Williams Gifford	*2nd Plymouth*	*1/30/2019*
Carlos González	*10th Hampden*	*1/30/2019*
Hannah Kane	*11th Worcester*	*1/30/2019*
José F. Tosado	*9th Hampden*	*1/31/2019*
Joan B. Lovely	*Second Essex*	*2/1/2019*
Bruce J. Ayers	*1st Norfolk*	*2/1/2019*

Ruth B. Balser	*12th Middlesex*	*2/1/2019*
Paul F. Tucker	*7th Essex*	*2/1/2019*
Kay Khan	*11th Middlesex*	*2/1/2019*
James K. Hawkins	*2nd Bristol*	*2/1/2019*

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HOUSE . . . . . No. 130

By Ms. Hogan of Stow, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 130) of Kate Hogan and others for legislation to establish a special commission (including members of the General Court) to study women and homelessness. Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court
(2019-2020)

An Act establishing a special commission to study women and homelessness.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

SECTION 1. There shall be a special commission governed by section 2A of chapter 4 of the General Laws to conduct an investigation and study regarding homelessness among women in the commonwealth.

The special commission shall consist of: two members of the house of representatives, one of whom shall be appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives who shall serve as co-chair, and one of whom shall be appointed by the minority leader of the house of representatives; two members of the senate, one of whom shall be appointed by the president of the senate who shall serve as co-chair, and one of whom shall be appointed by the minority leader of the senate; the secretary of health and human services or designee; the commissioner of public health or designee; the secretary of housing and economic development or designee; and the lieutenant governor or designee. The first meeting of the commission shall take place not later than February 28, 2021.

The co-chairs of the special commission shall appoint six representatives, including but not limited to: a representative of Health Care Without Walls; a representative of homeless shelters and agencies; a representative of housing advocacy organizations and agencies; a representative of a service provider with expertise in health care disparities, women's health, and trauma-informed care; an academic researcher with expertise in women's homelessness; and an individual who has experienced homelessness.

The special commission shall facilitate the collection and reporting of data on homelessness among women and persons who identify as women; conduct a community needs assessment; and make recommendations regarding homelessness prevention, improving shelters for women and families, increasing permanent housing opportunities, and ensuring that homeless women have access to a full range of health care and social services.

The special commission shall submit its findings and recommendations to the clerks of the senate and the house of representatives, the chair of the house committee on ways and means, the chair of the senate committee on ways and means, the chairs of the joint committee on public health, the chairs of the joint committee on health care financing, the chairs of the joint committee on housing, the chairs of the joint committee on mental health, substance abuse and recovery, and the chairs of the joint committee on economic development and emerging technologies not later than July 31, 2022.