

HOUSE No. 1846

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Ruth B. Balsler

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 creating a commission to study the need to reduce salt and sugar content in meals served in restaurants, schools, and public spaces.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Ruth B. Balsler</i>	<i>12th Middlesex</i>
<i>Carlos González</i>	<i>10th Hampden</i>
<i>Jason M. Lewis</i>	<i>Fifth Middlesex</i>
<i>Kay Khan</i>	<i>11th Middlesex</i>
<i>David M. Rogers</i>	<i>24th Middlesex</i>
<i>Edward F. Copping</i>	<i>10th Suffolk</i>
<i>José F. Tosado</i>	<i>9th Hampden</i>
<i>Denise Provost</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>
<i>Marjorie C. Decker</i>	<i>25th Middlesex</i>
<i>Mark C. Montigny</i>	<i>Second Bristol and Plymouth</i>
<i>Sean Garballey</i>	<i>23rd Middlesex</i>
<i>Elizabeth A. Malia</i>	<i>11th Suffolk</i>

HOUSE No. 1846

By Ms. Balsler of Newton, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1846) of Ruth B. Balsler and others for legislation to establish a commission (including members of the General Court) to study the need to reduce salt and sugar content in meals served in restaurants, schools, and public spaces. Public Health.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act creating a commission to study the need to reduce salt and sugar content in meals served in restaurants, schools, and public spaces.

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 study the relationship between high sodium
2 and sugar content in meals served in restaurants, schools, and other places of public
3 accommodation and its impact on public health.

4 The commission shall consist of the Commissioner of Public Health, or her designee; the
5 House and Senate Chairs of the Joint Committee on Public Health, or their designees; the House
6 and Senate Chairs of the Joint Committee on Health Care Financing or their designees; and the
7 following nine members whom the Governor shall appoint: a representative of the food industry;
8 a representative from the area of meal preparation for public schools in the Commonwealth; a
9 representative in the area of food services at health care facilities; a representative from the
10 medical community with specialization in cardiology; a representative from the medical
11 community with specialization in kidney disease; a representative from the medical community

12 with specialization in gastroenterology; a representative who is an expert in nutrition and
13 dietetics who is a faculty member at University of Massachusetts; a representative from the
14 health insurance industry; and a representative from the non-profit community in the field of
15 education and advocacy for the accommodation of foods for individuals that have been
16 prescribed a special diet because of a chronic medical condition or a food allergy.

17 The commission shall study the impacts of sugar and sodium in meals sold or provided in
18 restaurants, schools and other public spaces on public health in the Commonwealth. The
19 commission shall make recommendations regarding the actions required to educate food
20 providers and the public about these impacts, and actions, if necessary, to follow other
21 municipalities throughout the country and regulate or request voluntary actions for the disclosure
22 of sugar and sodium content on menus.

23 The Commission shall publish its findings and recommendations, together with drafts of
24 legislation, if any, necessary to carry those recommendations into effect, in a written report not
25 later than 2 years after the effective date of this act. The report shall be published on the official
26 website of the Commonwealth, and shall be contemporaneously filed with the House and Senate
27 Committees on Ways and Means, the House and Senate Chairs of the Joint Committee on Public
28 Health, and the House and Senate Chairs of the Joint Committee on Healthcare Financing.