

HOUSE No. 1941

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Kay Khan

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 commission on quality patient outcomes and professional nursing practice.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Kay Khan</i>	<i>11th Middlesex</i>
<i>Brian M. Ashe</i>	<i>2nd Hampden</i>
<i>Colleen M. Garry</i>	<i>36th Middlesex</i>
<i>Thomas A. Golden, Jr.</i>	<i>16th Middlesex</i>
<i>Kevin G. Honan</i>	<i>17th Suffolk</i>
<i>Louis L. Kafka</i>	<i>8th Norfolk</i>
<i>Jack Patrick Lewis</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>
<i>Thomas M. Stanley</i>	<i>9th Middlesex</i>

HOUSE No. 1941

By Ms. Khan of Newton, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1941) of Kay Khan and others relative to establishing a special commission (including members of the General Court) on quality patient outcomes and professional nursing practice. Public Health.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act establishing a commission on quality patient outcomes and professional nursing practice.

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. Chapter 6 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2016 Official Edition,
2 is hereby amended by adding the following section:—

3 Section 219. (a) There shall be a commission on nurse staffing in hospitals located
4 within, but not subject to the control of the executive office of health and human services. The
5 commission shall review and make recommendations regarding best nurse staffing practices
6 designed to improve the patient care environment, quality outcomes, and nurse satisfaction.

7 (b) (1) The commission shall consist of 17 members, as follows: the secretary of health
8 and human services or a designee, who shall serve as the chair; the attorney general or a
9 designee; the executive director of the health policy commission or a designee; the house chair of
10 the joint committee on public health; the senate chair of the joint committee on public health; one
11 person appointed by the speaker of the house; one person appointed by the senate president; and
12 one representative from each of the following 10 organizations: American Nurses Association

13 Massachusetts, Inc.; Emergency Nurses Association of Massachusetts State Council; Academy
14 of Medical Surgical Nursing, Massachusetts Chapter; Massachusetts Nurses Association;
15 Organization of Nurse Leaders; the Massachusetts Health and Hospital Association, Inc.; Service
16 Employees International Union; Massachusetts Health Council; American Association of Retired
17 Persons; and Health Law Advocates.

18 (2) Members of the commission shall serve for a term of 4 years, without compensation.
19 Any member shall be eligible for reappointment. Vacancies shall be filled in accordance with
20 paragraph (1) for the remainder of the unexpired term. Any member who is appointed by the
21 governor may be removed by the governor for cause.

22 (c) The commission may establish advisory committees to assist its work.

23 (d) The commission shall: (1) examine evidence based, tested and validated research on
24 patient care quality outcomes relative to nurse staffing levels; (2) examine evidence based, tested
25 and validated research on appropriate staffing levels for all units within a hospital; (3) examine
26 approaches undertaken by other states by statute or regulation to address the issues of patient
27 safety and patient quality outcomes relative to nurse staffing; (4) examine any barriers to
28 reasonable and efficient enforcement of staffing standards adopted in other jurisdictions; (5)
29 develop strategies for collaborative practice amongst registered nurses and other members of the
30 health care team; (6) hold public hearings on at least an annual basis and meetings to accept
31 comment from the general public and to seek advice from experts, including but not limited to
32 the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Nursing; (7) submit an annual report to the legislature
33 as provided in subsection (e) on the state of hospital staffing in the commonwealth.

34 (e) The commission shall file an annual report, on or before March 1, with the joint
35 committee on public health on its activities and any statutory or regulatory recommendations.
36 The commission shall monitor the implementation of its recommendations and update
37 recommendations to reflect current science and evidence based practice.