HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 839 FILED ON: 1/15/2019

HOUSE . . . . . No. 3577

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

David Paul Linsky

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 an institute within the Department of Public Health.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
David Paul Linsky	*5th Middlesex*	*1/15/2019*
Tami L. Gouveia	*14th Middlesex*	*1/22/2019*
Kay Khan	*11th Middlesex*	*1/29/2019*
Christine P. Barber	*34th Middlesex*	*1/25/2019*
Michael J. Barrett	*Third Middlesex*	*1/29/2019*
Carolyn C. Dykema	*8th Middlesex*	*1/23/2019*
James B. Eldridge	*Middlesex and Worcester*	*1/29/2019*
Tricia Farley-Bouvier	*3rd Berkshire*	*1/25/2019*
Dylan A. Fernandes	*Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket*	*1/24/2019*
Denise C. Garlick	*13th Norfolk*	*1/29/2019*
Carmine Lawrence Gentile	*13th Middlesex*	*1/23/2019*
Kenneth I. Gordon	*21st Middlesex*	*1/31/2019*
Jonathan Hecht	*29th Middlesex*	*1/31/2019*
Mary S. Keefe	*15th Worcester*	*1/30/2019*
David Henry Argosky LeBoeuf	*17th Worcester*	*1/31/2019*
Jack Patrick Lewis	*7th Middlesex*	*1/29/2019*
Liz Miranda	*5th Suffolk*	*1/31/2019*
Tram T. Nguyen	*18th Essex*	*1/27/2019*

Alice Hanlon Peisch	*14th Norfolk*	*1/31/2019*
Maria Duaime Robinson	*6th Middlesex*	*1/29/2019*
David M. Rogers	*24th Middlesex*	*1/25/2019*
Tommy Vitolo	*15th Norfolk*	*1/30/2019*

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By Mr. Linsky of Natick, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3577) of David Paul Linsky and others for legislation to establish a firearm violence institute within the Department of Public Health. Public Safety and Homeland Security.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act establishing an institute within the Department of Public Health.

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

Chapter 140 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after Section 131 the following section:-

Section 1317/8. The governor shall establish the Commonwealth of Massachusetts firearm violence institute, herein referred to as the institute, within the department of public health subject to appropriations. The purposes of the institute shall include: (1) advising the governor, governmental agencies, and the legislature on matters relating to firearm violence in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; (2) fostering, pursuing, and sponsoring collaborative firearm violence research; (3) increasing understanding by establishing reporting on what is known and what is not known about firearm violence of the state; (4) identifying priority needs for firearm violence research and inventory work within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts that currently are not receiving adequate attention, and identifying public or private entities that are best situated to address such needs, thereby leading to better coordination of firearm violence

research efforts in the state; (5) promoting awareness of existing and new sources of firearm violence information and firearm violence while educating the elected officials, governmental agencies, and the general public on firearm violence issues through such means as it may determine; (6) organizing and sponsoring meetings on firearm violence topics; (7) raising sensitivity to firearm violence concerns among state and local government agencies, and serving as a forum for enhanced interagency information sharing and cooperation; (8) working on a continuing basis with policymakers in the legislature and state agencies to identify, implement, and evaluate innovative firearm violence prevention policies and programs; (9) supplementing its own research by administering a small grants program for research on firearm violence, which shall be awarded on the basis of scientific merit as determined by an open, competitive peer review process that assures objectivity, consistency, and high quality; and (10) providing copies of their research publications to the legislature and to agencies supplying data used in the conduct of such research as soon as is practicable following publication. The institute shall be guided by an executive committee, which shall consist of 15 members, 1 of whom will be the commissioner of the department of criminal justice information services or their designee, 1 of whom will be the commissioner of the department of public health or their designee, 7 of whom will be at large members appointed by the governor whereby 1 of whom shall be chairperson, 2 of whom will be appointed by the president of the senate, 1 of whom shall be appointed by the minority leader of the senate, 2 of whom shall be appointed by the speaker of the house, and 1 of whom shall be appointed by the minority leader of the house. Appointed members shall serve for a term of 3 years, provided that such members may be reappointed. The institute shall have a director who shall be appointed by the executive committee and shall after appointment be an employee of the department of public health. The institute director shall serve at the pleasure of

the executive committee and serve as the chief administrative officer of the institute and provide the necessary support for the executive committee. The executive committee shall: (1) adopt policies, procedures, and criteria governing the programs and operations of the institute; (2) recommend to the governor and legislature appropriate actions to deal with firearm violence within the state; (3) develop and implement the research, education, and information transfer programs of the institute; (4) identify and rate proposals for firearm violence research; and (5) meet publicly at least twice a year, giving at least 2 weeks notice prior to each meeting. The institute shall foster, pursue, and sponsor basic, translational, and transformative research, field studies, and all other such activities to research: (1) the nature of firearm violence, including individual and societal determinants of risk for involvement in firearm violence, whether as a victim or a perpetrator; (2) the individual, community, and societal consequences of firearm violence; (3) the prevention and treatment of firearm violence at the individual, community, and societal levels; and (4) the effectiveness of existing laws and policies intended to reduce firearm violence, including the criminal misuse of firearms, and efforts to promote responsible ownership and use of firearms. The institute shall foster the collection, transfer, and application of firearm violence information in the state by fostering access, compatibility, interchange, and synthesis of data about firearm violence maintained by public entities, academic and research institutions, and private organizations. The institute shall prepare and submit a report every year to the governor and the legislature describing programs undertaken or sponsored by the institute, the status of knowledge regarding the state’s firearm violence, and research needs related thereto.