

HOUSE No. 4119

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, October 10, 2019.

The committee on Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery, to whom were referred the petition (accompanied by resolve, House, No. 1701) of Paul Brodeur for an investigation by a special commission (including members of the General Court) relative to post traumatic stress disorder, and the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1714) of Colleen M. Garry and others establishing a commission on post traumatic stress disorder, reports recommending that the accompanying bill (House, No. 4119) ought to pass.

For the committee,

MARJORIE C. DECKER.

HOUSE No. 4119

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

Resolve establishing a special commission on post traumatic stress disorder.

1 **Resolved**, there shall be a special commission established pursuant to section 2A of
2 chapter 4 of the General Laws which shall make an investigation and study of post traumatic
3 stress disorder, including, but not limited to prevention and treatment of said disorder. The
4 commission shall

5 make recommendations to enhance services, treatments, policies and programs in the
6 commonwealth where appropriate and necessary. In preparing its report the commission shall: (i)
7 evaluate all relevant statutes, regulations and policies in the commonwealth and in other states
8 and jurisdictions; (ii) evaluate the effectiveness of available treatment options and make
9 recommendations for improvements where necessary, including a focus on regional equity and
10 culturally competent care; (iii) assess the impact of race, ethnicity, gender identity, geography
11 and specific professions on the incidence of post traumatic stress disorder and related barriers to
12 accessing treatment; (iv) identify standards for screening and early and accurate diagnosis of post
13 traumatic stress disorder; (v) identify the impact of the diagnosis and treatment of post traumatic

14 stress disorder on access to health insurance, retirement benefits and disability benefits; (vi)
15 assess the current behavioral health workforce, workforce needs and shortages as related to
16 incidence, diagnosis and treatment of post traumatic stress disorder; (vii) identify and
17 recommend legislation and funding as required to implement said recommendations.

18 The commission shall elect from among its members a chair and any other officers it
19 considers necessary. The commission shall consist of the following 15 members: the secretary of
20 the executive office of health and human services or a designee; the secretary of the executive
21 office of labor and workforce development or a designee; the secretary of the executive office of
22 public safety and security or a designee; the house chair of the joint committee on veterans and
23 federal affairs or a designee; the senate chair of the joint committee on veterans and federal
24 affairs or a designee; the house chair of the joint committee on mental health, substance use and
25 recovery or a designee; the senate chair of the joint committee on mental health, substance use
26 and recovery or a designee; the house chair of the joint committee on labor and workforce
27 development or a designee; the senate chair of the joint committee on labor and workforce
28 development or a designee; the executive director of the Public Employee Retirement
29 Administration Commission or a designee; the executive director of the Massachusetts Coalition
30 for Occupational Safety and Health or a designee; the executive director of the Massachusetts
31 Office for Victim Assistance; and 3 members to be appointed by governor, 1 of whom shall be a
32 provider with clinical expertise in identifying and treating post-traumatic stress injuries, 1 of
33 whom shall have expertise in addressing behavioral health in minority communities and 1 of
34 whom shall be a member of a public employees union.

35 The commission shall submit its report to the clerks of the house of representatives and
36 the senate, the joint committee on veterans and federal affairs, the joint committee on mental
37 health, substance use and recovery and the joint committee on labor and workforce development.