

HOUSE No. 4558

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, March 12, 2020.

The committee on Public Health, to whom was referred the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1846) of Ruth B. Balser 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, reports recommending that the accompanying bill (House, No. 4558) ought to pass.

For the committee,

JOHN J. MAHONEY.

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**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, hospitals, worksites, government
3 buildings, and other places of public 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, each of whom shall have expertise in the field of nutrition and dietetics,
8 whom the Governor shall appoint: a representative of the food industry; a representative from the
9 area of meal preparation for public schools in the Commonwealth; a representative in the area of
10 food services at health care facilities; a representative from the medical community with
11 specialization in cardiology; a representative from the medical community with specialization in
12 endocrinology; a representative from the medical community with specialization in kidney
13 disease; a representative from the medical community with specialization in gastroenterology; a

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

19 The commission shall study the impacts of sugar and sodium in meals sold or provided in
20 restaurants, schools, hospitals, work sites, government buildings, and other public spaces on
21 public health in the Commonwealth. The commission shall make recommendations regarding the
22 actions required to educate food providers and the public about these impacts. In addition, the
23 commission shall consider issues related to health, healthcare, disparities in nutrition, and costs
24 to the individual, community, and medical system, that arise because of elevated sodium and
25 added sugars in foods sold and served in public spaces in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

26 The Commission shall publish its findings and recommendations, together with drafts of
27 legislation, if any, necessary to carry those recommendations into effect, in a written report no
28 later than 2 years after the effective date of this act. The report shall be filed with the clerks of
29 the house of representatives and the senate, the house and senate committees on ways and means,
30 the joint committee on public health, and the joint committee on healthcare financing.