

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 1440**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***Russell E. Holmes***

*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 special commission on structural racism.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Russell E. Holmes</i>	<i>6th Suffolk</i>	<i>1/18/2019</i>
<i>Bud L. Williams</i>	<i>11th Hampden</i>	<i>1/23/2019</i>
<i>Michelle M. DuBois</i>	<i>10th Plymouth</i>	<i>1/30/2019</i>
<i>Chynah Tyler</i>	<i>7th Suffolk</i>	<i>2/1/2019</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 1440**

By Mr. Holmes of Boston, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1440) of Russell E. Holmes and others for legislation to establish a special commission (including members of the General Court) to study the presence of institutional racism and structural racial inequality in the criminal justice system. The Judiciary.

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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

An Act establishing a special commission on structural racism.

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

1           There is hereby established a special commission on structural racism consisting of 11  
2 members: 2 members of the house of representatives; 2 members of the senate; the commissioner  
3 of the department of correction, who shall be the chair the commission; a sheriff selected by the  
4 governor; the district attorney of Suffolk county and 4 persons who shall be appointed by the  
5 governor: 1 of whom shall be the president of the Boston chapter of the NAACP; 1 of whom  
6 shall be the police commissioner of the city of Boston; and 1 of whom shall be the president of  
7 the Urban League of Eastern Massachusetts, Inc.

8           The commission shall study how the systemic presence of institutional racism has created  
9 a culture of structural racial inequality which has exacerbated disproportionate minority contact  
10 with the criminal justice system in Massachusetts.

11           The commission shall report to the general court with its findings and recommendations  
12 for legislation, if any, together with drafts of legislation necessary to carry its recommendations  
13 into effect, by filing the same with the clerk of the senate and the clerk of the house of  
14 representatives on or before July 1, 2020. The findings will be utilized to effectively legislate  
15 measures that will profoundly curtail the discriminatory treatment which has crippled the  
16 development of entire communities of color in the commonwealth.