

**SENATE . . . . . No. 1156**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

*Eric P. Lesser*

*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 to establish a commission to study substance use disorder and treatment disparities in the minority community.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Eric P. Lesser</i>	<i>First Hampden and Hampshire</i>	
<i>José F. Tosado</i>	<i>9th Hampden</i>	<i>1/30/2019</i>
<i>Bud L. Williams</i>	<i>11th Hampden</i>	<i>1/30/2019</i>
<i>Andres X. Vargas</i>	<i>3rd Essex</i>	<i>2/1/2019</i>
<i>Jon Santiago</i>	<i>9th Suffolk</i>	<i>2/1/2019</i>

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By Mr. Lesser, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1156) of Eric P. Lesser, José F. Tosado, Bud L. Williams, Andres X. Vargas and others for legislation to establish a commission to study substance use disorder and treatment disparities in the minority community. Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery.

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court  
(2019-2020)**  
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An Act to establish a commission to study substance use disorder and treatment disparities in the minority community.

*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. Notwithstanding any general or special laws to the contrary, there shall be  
2 established a commission to study the disproportionate impact substance use disorders and  
3 overdoses have on the minority community of the commonwealth and corresponding disparities  
4 in substance use disorder treatment access. The commission shall: (1) review current data and  
5 trends regarding substance use and overdose rates, disparities in treatment access, and  
6 corresponding causes in the minority community; (2) evaluate the effectiveness of current  
7 treatment interventions within minority communities; (3) identify barriers to accessing treatment,  
8 including lack of necessary resources, education, access and training to medical needs, and the  
9 need for culturally appropriate care and intervention; and (4) recommend evidence-based  
10 strategies to reduce overdose deaths and to improve access, treatment, and education in the  
11 minority community.

12           The commission shall consist of the following members or a designee: the secretary of  
13 health and human services, who shall serve as chair; the commissioner of the department of  
14 public health; a representative of the Bureau of Substance Addiction Services; and 8 members  
15 appointed by the governor, 2 of whom shall be representatives from advocacy organizations with  
16 expertise in substance use disorders and treatment, 2 of whom shall be representatives from  
17 advocacy organizations with expertise in racial disparities in health care, 1 of whom shall be a  
18 representative of community health centers located in a culturally diverse location, 1 of whom  
19 shall be a provider primarily serving the minority community, 1 of whom shall be an expert in  
20 substance use disorder treatment with a focus on the minority community, and 3 of whom shall  
21 be representatives of geographically diverse organizations that promote the well-being of  
22 culturally diverse populations through culturally competent behavioral health.

23           The commission shall file its report, including any recommendations, with the clerks of  
24 the senate and house of representatives, the joint committee on mental health, substance use and  
25 recovery and the house and senate committees on ways and means annually not later than  
26 January 1 of each year.