

**SENATE . . . . . No. 1292**

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

*Jason M. Lewis*

*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 increase access to health care in underserved areas of Massachusetts.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Jason M. Lewis</i>	<i>Fifth Middlesex</i>	
<i>Jack Patrick Lewis</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/18/2019</i>
<i>Maria Duaiame Robinson</i>	<i>6th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/28/2019</i>
<i>Mike Connolly</i>	<i>26th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/29/2019</i>
<i>Paul McMurtry</i>	<i>11th Norfolk</i>	<i>1/30/2019</i>
<i>Sal N. DiDomenico</i>	<i>Middlesex and Suffolk</i>	<i>1/31/2019</i>
<i>Michael O. Moore</i>	<i>Second Worcester</i>	<i>1/31/2019</i>
<i>Michael F. Rush</i>	<i>Norfolk and Suffolk</i>	<i>1/31/2019</i>
<i>Brian M. Ashe</i>	<i>2nd Hampden</i>	<i>1/31/2019</i>
<i>Diana DiZoglio</i>	<i>First Essex</i>	<i>2/4/2019</i>
<i>Michelle L. Ciccolo</i>	<i>15th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/4/2019</i>
<i>James K. Hawkins</i>	<i>2nd Bristol</i>	<i>2/7/2019</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	<i>2/11/2019</i>
<i>William N. Brownsberger</i>	<i>Second Suffolk and Middlesex</i>	<i>3/6/2019</i>

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By Mr. Lewis, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1292) of Jason M. Lewis, Jack Patrick Lewis, Maria Duaine Robinson, Mike Connolly and other members of the General Court for legislation to increase access to health care in underserved areas of Massachusetts. Public Health.

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[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE SENATE, NO. 1216 OF 2017-2018.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act to increase access to health care in underserved areas of Massachusetts.

*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. (a) There shall be a special commission to study and make  
2 recommendations regarding the licensing of foreign-trained medical professionals with the goal  
3 of expanding and improving medical services in rural and underserved areas.

4           (b) The commission shall consist of the following 23 members: 1 member appointed by  
5 the governor from the governor’s advisory council for refugees and immigrants; the secretary of  
6 the executive office of health and human services, or a designee, who shall serve as chair; the  
7 commissioner of public health, or a designee; 1 member appointed by the senate president; 1  
8 member appointed by the speaker of the house; 1 member appointed by the minority leader of  
9 the senate; 1 member appointed by the minority leader of the house; the house and senate chairs

10 of the joint committee on public health; 1 member of the board of registration of medicine; 1  
11 member of the board of dentistry; 1 member of the board of nursing; 1 member of the board of  
12 registration of physician assistants; 1 member of the board of allied health professionals; 3  
13 representatives of the Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition, 1 of whom  
14 shall be a foreign-trained medical professional and 1 of whom shall be a licensed physician; 1  
15 representative of the Massachusetts Medical Society; 1 representative of the Massachusetts  
16 Health and Hospital Association; 1 representative of the Massachusetts League of Community  
17 Health Centers; 1 representative of the Conference of Boston Teaching Hospitals; 1  
18 representative of the University of Massachusetts Medical School; and 1 representative of the  
19 Boston Welcome Back Center at Bunker Hill Community College.

20 (c) The commission shall examine, report and make recommendation on topics including  
21 but not limited to: (1) implement strategies to integrate foreign-trained medical professionals into  
22 rural and underserved areas that are in need of medical services, (2) identify state and national  
23 licensing regulations that may pose unnecessary barriers to practice for foreign-trained medical  
24 professionals, (3) develop recommendations for corresponding changes to state licensing  
25 requirements (4) identify opportunities to advocate for corresponding changes to national  
26 licensing requirements, and (5) other matters pertaining to licensing foreign-trained medical  
27 professionals. The commission may hold hearings and invite testimony from experts and the  
28 public to gather information. The commission shall review and identify best practices learned  
29 from similar efforts in other states. The report may include guidelines for full licensure and  
30 conditional licensing of foreign-trained medical professionals.

31           (d) The commission shall file a report containing its recommendations, including  
32 legislation and regulations necessary to carry out its recommendations to the joint committee on  
33 public health and with the clerks of the house and senate no later than July 1, 2021.