

SENATE No. 1292**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 Duaime 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>

SENATE No. 1292

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.

[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

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

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