

SENATE No. 1345

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Bruce E. Tarr

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 commission on quality patient outcomes and nurse staffing.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Bruce E. Tarr

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

First Essex and Middlesex

SENATE No. 1345

By Mr. Tarr, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1345) of Bruce E. Tarr for legislation to establish a commission on quality patient outcomes and nurse staffing. Public Health.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act establishing a commission on quality patient outcomes and nurse staffing.

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. Chapter 6 of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the following
2 section:-

3 Section 220.(a) There shall be a commission on nurse staffing in hospitals located within,
4 but not subject to the control of the executive office of health and human services. The
5 commission shall work to develop safe staffing standards for all hospital units.

6 (b) (1) The commission shall consist of 15 members, as follows: the secretary of health
7 and human services or a designee, who shall serve as the chair; the attorney general or a
8 designee; the executive director of the health policy commission or a designee; the house chair of
9 the joint committee on public health; the senate chair of the joint committee on public health; one
10 person appointed by the speaker of the house; one person appointed by the senate president; one
11 person appointed by the minority leader of the house; one person appointed by the minority
12 leader of the senate; and one representative from each of the following 8 organizations:

13 American Nurses Association Massachusetts, Inc.; Massachusetts Emergency Nurse Association
14 of; Massachusetts Nurses Association; Organization of Nurse Leaders; the Massachusetts
15 Hospital Association; Service Employees United International; Massachusetts Health Council;
16 and Health Law Advocates.

17 (2) Members of the commission shall serve for a term of 4 years, without compensation.
18 Any member shall be eligible for reappointment. Vacancies shall be filled in accordance with
19 paragraph (1) for the remainder of the unexpired term. Any member who is appointed by the
20 governor may be removed by the governor for cause.

21 (c) The commission may establish advisory committees to assist its work.

22 (d) The commission shall: examine evidence based, tested and validated research on
23 patient care quality outcomes relative to nurse staffing levels; examine evidence based, tested
24 and validated research on optimal staffing levels for all units within a hospital; examine
25 approaches undertaken by other states by statute or regulation to address the issue of patient
26 safety relative to nurse staffing; examine any barriers to reasonable and efficient enforcement of
27 staffing standards adopted in other jurisdictions; develop strategies for collaborative practice
28 amongst registered nurses and other members of the health care team; hold public hearings and
29 meetings to accept comment from the general public and to seek advice from experts; submit an
30 annual report to the legislature as provided in subsection (e) on the state of hospital staffing in
31 the Commonwealth.

32 (e) The commission shall file an annual report, on or before March 1, with the joint
33 committee on public health on its activities and any statutory or regulatory recommendations.

- 34 The commission shall monitor the implementation of its recommendations and update
35 recommendations to reflect current science and evidence based practice.