

SENATE No. 2164

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Barry R. Finegold

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 Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Barry R. Finegold</i>	<i>Second Essex and Middlesex</i>	
<i>Diana DiZoglio</i>	<i>First Essex</i>	<i>1/29/2019</i>
<i>Colleen M. Garry</i>	<i>36th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/29/2019</i>
<i>David Allen Robertson</i>	<i>19th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/30/2019</i>
<i>Michael O. Moore</i>	<i>Second Worcester</i>	<i>1/31/2019</i>

SENATE No. 2164

By Mr. Finegold, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2164) of Barry R. Finegold, Diana DiZoglio, Colleen M. Garry, David Allen Robertson and others for legislation to establish a Commission on Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. Veterans and Federal Affairs.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act establishing a Commission on Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

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

1 Chapter 6A of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 104 the
2 following section:-

3 Section 105. (a) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the
4 Executive Office of Health and Human Services shall establish a Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder
5 Commission. The commission shall consist of: the Secretary of the Executive Office of Health
6 and Human Services, or a designee, who shall serve as Chair; the Commissioner of the
7 Department of Mental Health, or a designee and 17 persons to be appointed by the Secretary of
8 the Executive Office of Health and Human Services: 2 of whom shall be experts in the field, 1
9 from Massachusetts General Hospital and 1 from Harvard University PTSD Research Laboratory
10 in consultation with their relevant specialty chapters, 1 of whom shall be representative from the
11 Secretary of Massachusetts Veterans’ Affairs, 1 of whom shall be representative of the American
12 Legion Department of Massachusetts, 1 of whom shall be a representative of the Veterans of

13 Foreign Wars Department of Massachusetts, 1 of whom shall be a representative of the Federal
14 Veterans Administration, 1 of whom shall be representative of the Department of Children and
15 Families, 1 of whom shall be representative of Boston Children's Hospital, 1 of whom shall be
16 representative of New England Police Benevolent Association, 1 of whom shall be representative
17 of the Massachusetts Police Association, 1 of whom shall be representative of Jane Doe, Inc., 1
18 of whom shall be representative of the immigrant/refugee population, 1 of whom shall be a
19 representative of Professional Fire Fighters of Massachusetts, 1 of whom shall be a
20 representative of an Emergency Medical Services program, and 3 of whom shall be
21 representative of a research advocacy, or support organization primarily serving individuals with
22 PTSD.

23 (b) The Commission shall: (1) develop and annually update a summary of the advances
24 made in research on and treatment and diagnosis of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder; (2) develop
25 and annually update a summary of the advances made in access to care for individuals with a
26 diagnosis Post Traumatic Stress Disorder; (3) monitor Post Traumatic Stress Disorder research
27 services, and support activities across the commonwealth, including coordination of the
28 commonwealth's activities and programs with respect to Post Traumatic Stress Disorder; (4)
29 develop and annually update a comprehensive strategic plan to improve health outcomes for
30 individuals with a diagnosis of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder including recommendations to (a)
31 advance research on Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, (b) improve the treatment of Post Traumatic
32 Stress Disorder, (c) improve public awareness and recognition of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder,
33 (d) improve mental health care delivery for individuals with a diagnosis of Post Traumatic Stress
34 Disorder, (e) improve the early and accurate diagnosis of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and (f)
35 systematically advance the full spectrum of biomedical research on Post Traumatic Stress

36 Disorder; (5) develop and annually update the progress made in implementing such
37 comprehensive strategic plan.

38 (c) The Commission shall submit its recommendations to the Governor and the Clerks of
39 the House of Representatives and Senate annually on or before December 31.