

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Harriette L. Chandler

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 special commission on the status of homeless women.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
Harriette L. Chandler	First Worcester	
Kate Hogan	3rd Middlesex	
David Paul Linsky	5th Middlesex	1/18/2019
Jason M. Lewis	Fifth Middlesex	1/23/2019
Rebecca L. Rausch	Norfolk, Bristol and Middlesex	1/24/2019
Kay Khan	11th Middlesex	1/25/2019
James B. Eldridge	Middlesex and Worcester	1/29/2019
Marjorie C. Decker	25th Middlesex	1/30/2019
Patrick M. O'Connor	Plymouth and Norfolk	1/30/2019
Paul McMurtry	11th Norfolk	1/30/2019
Cindy F. Friedman	Fourth Middlesex	1/30/2019
Denise Provost	27th Middlesex	2/1/2019
Natalie M. Higgins	4th Worcester	2/1/2019
Michael O. Moore	Second Worcester	2/1/2019
Sean Garballey	23rd Middlesex	2/1/2019
Sal N. DiDomenico	Middlesex and Suffolk	2/4/2019
James K. Hawkins	2nd Bristol	2/5/2019
Joan B. Lovely	Second Essex	2/4/2019

James J. O'Day	14th Worcester	6/27/2019
Maria Duaime Robinson	6th Middlesex	3/4/2019

SENATE DOCKET, NO. 1243 FILED ON: 1/17/2019 SENATE No. 25

By Ms. Chandler, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 25) of Harriette L. Chandler, Kate Hogan, David Paul Linsky, Jason M. Lewis and other members of the General Court for legislation to establish a special commission on the status of homeless women. Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act establishing a special commission on the status of homeless women.

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. There shall be a special commission governed by section 2A of chapter 4 of

2 the General Laws to conduct an investigation and study regarding homelessness among women

3 in the Commonwealth.

4	The special commission shall consist of: two members of the house of representatives,
5	one of whom shall be appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives who shall serve as
6	co-chair, and one of whom shall be appointed by the minority leader of the house of
7	representatives; two members of the senate, one of whom shall be appointed by the president of
8	the senate who shall serve as co-chair, and one of whom shall be appointed by the minority
9	leader of the senate; the secretary of health and human services or designee; the commissioner of
10	public health or designee; the secretary of housing and economic development or designee; and
11	the lieutenant governor or designee. The first meeting of the commission shall take place not
12	later than February 28, 2021.

13 The co-chairs of the special commission shall appoint six representatives, including but 14 not limited to: a representative of Health Care Without Walls; a representative of homeless 15 shelters and agencies; a representative of housing advocacy organizations and agencies; a 16 representative of a service provider with expertise in health care disparities, women's health, and 17 trauma-informed care; an academic researcher with expertise in women's homelessness; and an 18 individual who has experienced homelessness.

19 The special commission shall facilitate the collection and reporting of data on
20 homelessness among women and persons who identify as women; conduct a community needs
21 assessment; and make recommendations regarding homelessness prevention, improving shelters
22 for women and families, increasing permanent housing opportunities, and ensuring that homeless
23 women have access to a full range of health care and social services.

The special commission shall submit its findings and recommendations to the clerks of the senate and the house of representatives, the chair of the house committee on ways and means, the chair of the senate committee on ways and means, the chairs of the joint committee on public health, the chairs of the joint committee on health care financing, the chairs of the joint committee on housing, the chairs of the joint committee on mental health, substance abuse and recovery, and the chairs of the joint committee on economic development and emerging technologies not later than July 31, 2022.

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