

SENATE No. 2996

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

SENATE, January 4, 2021.

The committee on Veterans and Federal Affairs, to whom was referred the 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, reports the accompanying bill (Senate, No. 2996).

For the committee,
Walter F. Timilty

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**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 Secretary of the Executive
7 Office of Public Safety, or a designee; the Commissioner of the Department of Mental Health, or
8 a designee and 17 persons to be appointed by the Secretary of the Executive Office of Health and
9 Human Services: 2 of whom shall be experts in the field, 1 from Massachusetts General Hospital
10 and 1 from Harvard University PTSD Research Laboratory in consultation with their relevant
11 specialty chapters, 1 of whom shall be a representative from the Secretary of Massachusetts
12 Veterans' Affairs or a designee, 1 of whom shall be a representative of the American Legion
13 Department of Massachusetts, 1 of whom shall be a representative of the Veterans of Foreign

14 Wars Department of Massachusetts, 1 of whom shall be a representative of the Federal Veterans
15 Administration, 1 of whom shall be a representative of the Department of Children and Families,
16 1 of whom shall be a representative of Boston Children's Hospital, 1 of whom shall be a
17 representative of New England Police Benevolent Association, 1 of whom shall be a
18 representative of the Massachusetts Police Association, 1 of whom shall be a representative of
19 Jane Doe, Inc., 1 of whom shall be representative from Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee
20 Advocacy Coalition, 1 of whom shall be a representative of Professional Fire Fighters of
21 Massachusetts, 1 of whom shall be a representative of an Emergency Medical Services program,
22 and 3 of whom shall be representative of a research advocacy, or support organization primarily
23 serving individuals with PTSD, 1 of whom shall be a representative of the National Guard and
24 appointed by the adjutant general of the Massachusetts National Guard, 1 of whom shall be
25 appointed from Massachusetts General Hospital Home Base program, 1 of whom shall be
26 appointed by the Massachusetts Corrections Officers Federated Union; and the House and Senate
27 Chairs of the Joint Committee on Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery.

28 (b) The Commission shall: (1) develop and biennially update a summary of the advances
29 made in research on and treatment and diagnosis of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder; (2) develop
30 and biennially update a summary of the advances made in access to care for individuals with a
31 diagnosis Post Traumatic Stress Disorder; (3) monitor Post Traumatic Stress Disorder research
32 services, and support activities across the commonwealth, including coordination of the
33 commonwealth's activities and programs with respect to Post Traumatic Stress Disorder; (4)
34 develop and annually update a comprehensive strategic plan to improve health outcomes for
35 individuals with a diagnosis of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder including recommendations to (a)
36 advance research on Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, (b) improve the treatment of Post Traumatic

37 Stress Disorder, (c) improve public awareness and recognition of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder,
38 (d) improve mental health care delivery for individuals with a diagnosis of Post Traumatic Stress
39 Disorder, (e) improve the early and accurate diagnosis of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and (f)
40 systematically advance the full spectrum of biomedical research on Post Traumatic Stress
41 Disorder; (5) develop and biennially update the progress made in implementing such
42 comprehensive strategic plan.

43 (c) The Commission shall submit its recommendations to the Governor and the Clerks of
44 the House of Representatives and Senate biennially on or before January 31st of the second year
45 of the legislative session.