

SENATE No. 66

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Joan B. Lovely

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 relative to improving access to treatment for individuals with perinatal substance use disorder.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Joan B. Lovely

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Second Essex

SENATE No. 66

By Ms. Lovely, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 66) of Joan B. Lovely for legislation to improve access to treatment for individuals with perinatal substance use disorder. Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to improving access to treatment for individuals with perinatal substance use 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 SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any special or general law to the contrary, there shall be a
2 special commission to evaluate the barriers to substance use treatment for women in the perinatal
3 period. The special commission shall consist of: the secretary of health and human services or a
4 designee, who shall serve as the chair; the commissioner of the department of public health or a
5 designee, who shall be appointed based on expertise in family and infant health; the
6 commissioner of the department of mental health or a designee, who shall be appointed based on
7 expertise in substance use disorder; the commissioner of the department of children and families
8 or a designee, who shall be appointed based on experience with families experiencing substance
9 use disorder; the director of the bureau of substance use substance use disorder or a designee,
10 who shall be appointed based on experience with coordinating substance use treatment for
11 women; the director of MassHealth or a designee; four members appointed by the governor, who
12 shall include: one person from the Massachusetts Child Psychiatric Access Program for Moms,

13 one person from the Perinatal and Neonatal Quality Improvement Network, one person from the
14 Boston Medical Center’s Project RESPECT, one person who is a woman with experience
15 seeking treatment in the perinatal period; two members of the senate, one of whom shall be
16 appointed by the president and one of whom shall be appointed by the minority leader; and two
17 members of the house of representatives, one of whom shall be appointed by the speaker and one
18 of whom shall be appointed by the minority leader.

19 Said special commission shall develop recommendations to remove barriers to treatment
20 for perinatal substance use disorder, including but not limited to, insurance coverage; access to
21 medication assisted treatment; access to mental health treatment; access to treatment postpartum
22 that facilitates parenting; screening for substance use disorder; and the integration of perinatal
23 care and substance use treatment. In developing recommendations, the special commission may
24 coordinate and consult with other commissions and entities, as appropriate. The special
25 commission shall submit a report with its recommendations to the clerks of the house of
26 representatives and the senate, the chairs of the joint committee on ways and means, the chairs of
27 the joint committee on mental health and substance abuse and the chairs of the joint committee
28 on children, families and persons with disabilities not later than July 1, 2020.