

SENATE No. 25

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

James J. O'Day

14th Worcester

6/27/2019

Maria Duaine Robinson

6th Middlesex

3/4/2019

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.

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