

SENATE No. 1873

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Jason M. Lewis

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 to identify opportunities to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of state agencies, programs, and services.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Jason M. Lewis

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Fifth Middlesex

SENATE No. 1873

By Mr. Lewis, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1873) of Jason M. Lewis for legislation to establish a special commission to identify opportunities to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of state agencies, programs, and services. State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. 2616 OF 2017-2018.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act establishing a special commission to identify opportunities to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of state agencies, programs, and services.

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. The General Laws are hereby amended by inserting after chapter 11 the
2 following chapter:-

3 Chapter 11A

4 Government Efficiencies Commission

5 SECTION 1. (a) There shall be a special commission to study and make
6 recommendations concerning functional overlaps and other redundancies among state agencies
7 and opportunities to promote efficiency and accountability in state government. The commission
8 shall consist of the following members or their designees: (i) the house and senate chairs of the

9 joint committee on state administration and regulatory oversight, who shall serve as co-chairs;
10 (ii) the chair of the house committee on post audit and oversight; (iii) the chair of the senate
11 committee on post audit and oversight; (iv) the minority leader of the house; (v) the minority
12 leader of the senate; (vi) the state auditor; (vii) the assistant secretary of commonwealth
13 performance, accountability and transparency; (viii) the treasurer and receiver general; and (ix) 2
14 members that shall be appointed by the governor.

15 (b) The commission shall identify ways to eliminate overlaps and redundancies among
16 state agencies and make other recommendations as the commission considers appropriate with
17 the goal of reducing costs to the commonwealth and enhancing the quality and accessibility of
18 state services to the public. The commission shall consider merging or consolidating state
19 agencies and programs if a merger would reduce costs without adversely impacting the quality of
20 services. The commission shall also seek to identify opportunities to maximize revenues, such as
21 federal grants and matching funds.

22 (c) The commission may hold hearings and invite testimony from experts and the public.
23 The commission shall review and identify best practices learned from similar efforts in other
24 states, including the state of Connecticut's Commission on Enhancing Agency Outcomes which
25 submitted its final report on December 30, 2010.

26 (d) The agency head and staff of each state agency under consideration by the
27 commission shall ensure that any data, information or materials that the commission requests for
28 purposes of its review and deliberations are provided to the commission in a timely manner.

29 (e) Members of the commission shall be named and the commission shall begin its work
30 within 60 days of the effective date of this act. The commission shall report to the general court

31 the results of its investigation and study and recommendations, if any, together with drafts of
32 legislation necessary to carry its recommendations into effect by filing the same with the clerks
33 of the senate and the house of representatives within 1 year of the effective date of this act. The
34 clerks of the senate and house shall post the report on the website of the general court.