

HOUSE No. 1494

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Mike Connolly

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 task force to study equitable access to entheogenic plants.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Mike Connolly</i>	<i>26th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/19/2021</i>
<i>Natalie M. Higgins</i>	<i>4th Worcester</i>	<i>3/3/2021</i>
<i>David Henry Argosky LeBoeuf</i>	<i>17th Worcester</i>	<i>3/3/2021</i>
<i>Lindsay N. Sabadosa</i>	<i>1st Hampshire</i>	<i>3/9/2021</i>
<i>Christine P. Barber</i>	<i>34th Middlesex</i>	<i>4/23/2021</i>
<i>Sal N. DiDomenico</i>	<i>Middlesex and Suffolk</i>	<i>4/23/2021</i>
<i>Julian Cyr</i>	<i>Cape and Islands</i>	<i>6/2/2021</i>

HOUSE No. 1494

By Mr. Connolly of Cambridge, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1494) of Mike Connolly and others for legislation to establish an interagency task force to study the public health and social justice implications of legalizing the possession, consumption, transportation, and distribution of naturally cultivated entheogenic plants and fungi. The Judiciary.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the One Hundred and Ninety-Second General Court
(2021-2022)

An Act establishing a task force to study equitable access to entheogenic plants.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 There shall be an interagency task force to study the public health and social justice
2 implications of legalizing the possession, consumption, transportation, and distribution of
3 naturally cultivated entheogenic plants and fungi. The task force shall consist of 21 members: 1
4 member shall be appointed by the senate president, who shall serve as co-chair; 1 member who
5 shall be appointed by the minority leader of the senate; 1 member who shall be appointed by the
6 speaker of the house of representatives, who shall serve as co-chair; 1 member who shall be
7 appointed by the minority leader of the house of representatives; 1 member of the Board of
8 Allied Mental Health and Human Services Professions or its agreed upon designee; 1 member of
9 the Cannabis Control Commission; 2 members with professional advocacy or academic
10 experience with drug-related harm reduction policies and methods, at least 1 of whom should be
11 a practitioner of traditional, ceremonial plant medicine practices; 3 members with training in
12 medicine, social work, public health, or law and expertise in addressing health disparities and

13 access to care; 4 members with professional, advocacy, or academic experience promoting racial
14 equity and economic justice, at least 1 of whom shall be a representative of a Massachusetts
15 recognized Native American tribe; 2 members with professional scientific expertise in the
16 physiological and psychological effects of the full spectrum of entheogenic plants, fungi, and
17 natural materials containing indole amines, tryptamines, phenethylamines, including psilocybin,
18 ayahuasca, cacti, and iboga; the attorney general of Massachusetts or their designee; the
19 secretary of the executive office of health and human services or their designee; the secretary of
20 the department of veterans' services or their designee; the secretary of the executive office of
21 public safety and security or their designee.

22 The task force shall: (i) compile and review research regarding the physiological and
23 psychological effects of entheogenic plants and fungi; (ii) compile testimony and data on the
24 experiences of communities across the United States—including Somerville (MA), Cambridge
25 (MA), Denver (CO), Oakland (CA), Santa Cruz (CA), Ann Arbor (MI), sovereign native lands,
26 Washington D.C. and Oregon—as well as international jurisdictions that pursued harm reduction
27 strategies with respect to entheogens—including Portugal, the Netherlands, Jamaica, Peru, and
28 Brazil; (iii) compile and review research regarding the impact of controlled substances
29 prohibition on marginalized groups, including indigenous people, veterans, people with physical
30 and mental health disabilities, Black people, people of Latino and Hispanic heritage, people of
31 Asian descent, people of color, people in poverty, and people identifying with the LGBTQ
32 community; (iv) compile and review research on the political and cultural origins of prohibition
33 policies for controlled substances; (v) develop recommendations for legalizing and eliminating
34 Massachusetts state penalties for possession, consumption, transportation, manufacture, and
35 distribution of entheogenic plants and fungi in a manner that maximizes equitable access and

36 sustainable manufacture of these plants; (vi) identify opportunities for public education on harm-
37 reduction for controlled substances, including revisions to policies related to the licensing of
38 physical and mental healthcare workers and therapists across the Commonwealth; (vii) develop
39 recommendations regarding pardons, parole, diversion, expungement, and equity measures for
40 people with criminal records related to possession, consumption, and distribution of entheogenic
41 plants and fungi and other controlled substances; (viii) hear and consider public testimony by
42 Massachusetts residents who have used entheogenic plants and fungi and/or endured experiences
43 related to incarceration for controlled substances possession.

44 The task force shall file a report of its findings and recommendations, together with drafts
45 of legislation necessary to carry those recommendations into effect, by filing the same with the
46 clerks of the senate and the house of representatives, the chairs of the senate and house
47 committees on ways and means, the senate and house chairs of the joint committee on public
48 health, the senate and house chairs of the joint committee on the judiciary, the senate and house
49 chairs of the joint committee on public safety and homeland security not later than June 2022.