

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 2213**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***Steven G. Xiarhos***

*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 civilian mental health advocates.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Steven G. Xiarhos</i>	<i>5th Barnstable</i>	<i>2/12/2021</i>
<i>Mathew J. Muratore</i>	<i>1st Plymouth</i>	<i>2/22/2021</i>
<i>Timothy R. Whelan</i>	<i>1st Barnstable</i>	<i>2/23/2021</i>
<i>Michael J. Soter</i>	<i>8th Worcester</i>	<i>2/25/2021</i>
<i>Susan L. Moran</i>	<i>Plymouth and Barnstable</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>Hannah Kane</i>	<i>11th Worcester</i>	<i>3/2/2021</i>
<i>Elizabeth A. Malia</i>	<i>11th Suffolk</i>	<i>3/15/2021</i>
<i>Patrick M. O'Connor</i>	<i>Plymouth and Norfolk</i>	<i>5/5/2021</i>

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By Mr. Xiarhos of Barnstable, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2213) of Steven G. Xiarhos and others that cities and towns be authorized to establish police department civilian mental health advocate divisions. Municipalities and Regional Government.

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Second General Court  
(2021-2022)**  
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An Act relative to civilian mental health advocates.

*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 41 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2018 Official Edition, is hereby  
2 amended by inserting, after section 97F, the following section:-

3 Section 97G. (a) A city or town that accepts this section in the manner provided in  
4 section 4 of chapter 4 may establish within its police department, a division of civilian mental  
5 health advocates.

6 (b) The civilian mental health advocates may accompany law enforcement officers of the  
7 police department to respond to non-violent or behavioral health-related matters. The department  
8 shall establish procedures to determine if a civilian mental health advocate is required to  
9 accompany police response.

10 (c) The city or town shall determine the minimum qualifications for a civilian mental  
11 health advocate. The city or town may contract with private parties to provide civilian mental  
12 health advocate services.

13 (d) The police department may consult with the department of public health and the  
14 division of police officer standards and training in developing regulations relative to this section.