

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 2320**

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

*Kate Hogan*

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 an oral health special commission and needs assessment.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Kate Hogan</i>	<i>3rd Middlesex</i>	<i>2/18/2021</i>
<i>Harriette L. Chandler</i>	<i>First Worcester</i>	<i>2/25/2021</i>
<i>James J. O'Day</i>	<i>14th Worcester</i>	<i>2/25/2021</i>
<i>Lindsay N. Sabadosa</i>	<i>1st Hampshire</i>	<i>3/2/2021</i>
<i>Jack Patrick Lewis</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>	<i>3/2/2021</i>
<i>Michelle L. Ciccolo</i>	<i>15th Middlesex</i>	<i>3/2/2021</i>
<i>Joanne M. Comerford</i>	<i>Hampshire, Franklin and Worcester</i>	<i>3/2/2021</i>
<i>Adrian C. Madaro</i>	<i>1st Suffolk</i>	<i>3/17/2021</i>
<i>Patrick M. O'Connor</i>	<i>Plymouth and Norfolk</i>	<i>3/17/2021</i>
<i>Walter F. Timilty</i>	<i>Norfolk, Bristol and Plymouth</i>	<i>3/17/2021</i>
<i>Steven Ultrino</i>	<i>33rd Middlesex</i>	<i>10/13/2021</i>
<i>Kay Khan</i>	<i>11th Middlesex</i>	<i>10/13/2021</i>
<i>Natalie M. Higgins</i>	<i>4th Worcester</i>	<i>10/13/2021</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 2320**

By Ms. Hogan of Stow, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2320) of Kate Hogan and others for legislation to establish a special commission (including members of the General Court) to study the current burden of oral disease. Public Health.

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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

An Act establishing an oral health special commission and needs assessment.

*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. (a) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the office of  
2 oral health within the department of public health shall establish a special commission on oral  
3 health for the purpose of making an investigation and study of the current burden of oral disease  
4 in the Commonwealth, identifying the gaps in care and developing a strategic plan to address  
5 specific barriers, integrate oral health with general health, and improve access and quality of oral  
6 health care provided for the residents of the commonwealth. Said commission shall consist of:  
7 the commissioner of public health or a designee, who shall serve as chair; the current members  
8 of the department of public health office of oral health advisory committee; the assistant  
9 secretary for MassHealth or a designee; two members of the house of representatives to be  
10 named by the speaker of the house, two members of the senate to be named by the senate  
11 president; and twelve members to be named by the Governor; one of whom shall be a  
12 representative of the health policy commission; one of whom shall be a representative of the  
13 center for health information and analysis; one of whom shall be a representative of the

14 Massachusetts Dental Society; one of whom shall be a representative of the Massachusetts  
15 Dental Hygiene Association; one of whom shall be a representative of Health Care For All; three  
16 of whom shall be representative of geographically, racially, socioeconomically and ethnically  
17 diverse communities in the state; one of whom shall be a representative of an organization  
18 representing older adult; two of whom shall be representatives of community health centers that  
19 provide dental health services; one of whom shall be a representative of the Boston Public Health  
20 Commission; one of whom shall be a representative of the DentaQuest Partnership for Oral  
21 Health Advancement; one of whom shall be dean of a Massachusetts school of dental medicine  
22 or a designee; one of whom shall be a dean of a Massachusetts school of dental hygiene or a  
23 designee; one of whom shall be representative of the Massachusetts Public Health Association;  
24 one of whom shall be representative of the Massachusetts Academy of Pediatric Dentistry; one  
25 of whom shall be representative of hospital that provides dental services to children; and one of  
26 whom shall be representative of a health organization participating in an accountable care  
27 payment model. The commission membership may be comprised of members of the department  
28 of public health oral health advisory council. The commission may select additional or  
29 replacement members as appropriate and may consult with relevant experts to support the  
30 commission's objectives and the production of its report.

31 (b) Said commission shall investigate the current oral health status and needs of all  
32 residents of the Commonwealth, including adult and pediatric populations; assess gaps in access  
33 to oral health care and services; develop a plan and timeline to conduct a statewide oral health  
34 needs assessment to be led by the oral health advisory council; create guidelines to establish a  
35 statewide oral health data and surveillance system using contemporary information technologies  
36 and national comparisons of key indicators' and provide workforce, infrastructure, and policy

37 recommendations that address oral health disparities, increase public awareness of oral health  
38 services, and work towards building health equity in the Commonwealth. Said commission shall  
39 utilize data to examine oral health status and dental care access for underserved and diverse  
40 populations including but not limited to racially, ethnically, culturally and linguistically diverse  
41 communities across all geographic regions in the commonwealth; assess provider capacity or  
42 shortages inclusive of provider enrollment by payer type; propose solutions to improve access to  
43 culturally competent care and services, dental care provider enrollment in MassHealth; public  
44 oral health prevention and promotion programs, considering the impact of social determinants of  
45 health on oral health; telehealth; and such other matters as the commission shall determine to be  
46 of relevance and priority.

47 (c) Said commission shall file its findings and recommendations with the house and  
48 senate committees on ways and means, the joint committee on health care financing, the joint  
49 committee on public health, the clerks of the house of representatives and senate on or before  
50 December 31, 2023. The statewide oral health needs assessment shall be completed no later than  
51 December 31, 2025.