

HOUSE No. 4037

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Peter Capano

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 authorizing the creation of unarmed mobile crisis response teams.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Peter Capano</i>	<i>11th Essex</i>	<i>2/18/2021</i>
<i>Tommy Vitolo</i>	<i>15th Norfolk</i>	<i>7/20/2021</i>
<i>Tricia Farley-Bouvier</i>	<i>3rd Berkshire</i>	<i>7/21/2021</i>
<i>Patrick M. O'Connor</i>	<i>Plymouth and Norfolk</i>	<i>7/21/2021</i>
<i>Linda Dean Campbell</i>	<i>15th Essex</i>	<i>7/21/2021</i>
<i>Michael D. Brady</i>	<i>Second Plymouth and Bristol</i>	<i>7/21/2021</i>
<i>Michelle L. Ciccolo</i>	<i>15th Middlesex</i>	<i>7/23/2021</i>
<i>Jon Santiago</i>	<i>9th Suffolk</i>	<i>7/27/2021</i>
<i>Lindsay N. Sabadosa</i>	<i>1st Hampshire</i>	<i>7/27/2021</i>

HOUSE No. 4037

By Mr. Capano of Lynn, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4037) of Peter Capano and others relative to authorizing the creation of unarmed mobile crisis response teams in gateway cities. Public Safety and Homeland Security.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act authorizing the creation of unarmed mobile crisis response teams.

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) As used in this act the following words shall, unless the context clearly
2 requires otherwise, have the following meanings:-

3 “De-escalation tactics”, proactive actions and approaches used to stabilize a situation so
4 that more time, options and resources are available to gain a person’s voluntary compliance and
5 to reduce or eliminate the need to use force including, but not limited to, verbal persuasion,
6 warnings, slowing down the pace of an incident, waiting out a person, creating distance between
7 the a person and a threat and requesting additional resources to resolve the incident, including,
8 but not limited to, calling in medical or licensed mental health professionals, as defined in
9 subsection (a) of section 51 ½ of chapter 111 of the General Laws, to address a potential medical
10 or mental health crisis.

11 “Gateway municipality”, as defined in section 3A of chapter 23A of the General Laws.

CORRECTED

12 “Mobile crisis response teams” or “teams”, multidisciplinary teams available 24 hours
13 per day, 7 days per week, trained in trauma-informed care, de-escalation tactics and harm
14 reduction.

15 “Pilot program”, the mobile crisis response team pilot program established in section 2.

16 “Secretary”, the secretary of public safety and security.

17 “Special commission”, the special commission on mobile crisis response teams
18 established in section 3.

19 SECTION 2. (a) There shall be a 3-year pilot program to establish mobile crisis response
20 teams in gateway municipalities under the supervision of the secretary.

21 (b) The secretary shall provide grants, funded at 100 per cent, to gateway municipalities
22 to establish mobile crisis response teams. Each gateway municipality that applies to participate
23 in the pilot program shall receive a grant to establish a mobile crisis response team.

24 Municipalities shall apply for grants in a form to be prescribed by the secretary.

25 Mobile crisis response teams shall be under the supervision and control of the secretary.

26 Mobile crisis response teams shall provide voluntary assessment and stabilization services for
27 individuals in crisis, as well as coordination and referrals to follow-up care and wraparound

28 services, including housing assistance. Teams shall be able to provide or coordinate

29 transportation to help individuals reach their next step in care. Teams shall be connected to

30 regional hotlines and emergency medical service systems. Teams shall not be operated by or

31 affiliated with state or local law enforcement agencies, though teams may coordinate with law

32 enforcement if or when appropriate. Teams shall partner with key community resources, as

CORRECTED

33 determined by the secretary, to facilitate referral and coordination efforts, including, but not
34 limited to, relationships with rape crisis centers, behavioral health providers, crisis intervention
35 services, housing assistance providers such as housing authorities and other organizations and
36 agencies that provide social services.

37 SECTION 3. There shall be a special legislative commission, pursuant to section 2A of
38 chapter 4 of the General Laws on mobile crisis response teams pilot program. The commission
39 shall consist of 9 members: the house and senate chairs of the joint committee on public safety
40 and homeland security; who shall serve as co-chairs; the house and senate chairs of the joint
41 committee on public health; the secretary; the executive director of the state 911 department or a
42 designee; 2 mayors of gateway municipalities that participated in the pilot program, to be
43 appointed by the governor; and 1 member of a mobile crisis response team, to be appointed by
44 the secretary. The special commission shall convene not later than 30 days after the conclusion
45 of the pilot program.

46 The secretary shall provide a detailed report on the pilot program to the special
47 commission within 10 days of the convocation of the special commission. The report shall
48 include, but not be limited to, data related to: (i) which gateway municipalities chose to
49 participate in the pilot program; (ii) the costs of establishing and maintaining a mobile crisis
50 response team in each gateway municipality; (iii) the number of members on each team; (iv) the
51 qualifications of each member of a team; (v) frequency and length of team responses; (vi)
52 referrals and coordination efforts with law enforcement; (vii) referrals and coordination efforts
53 with social service providers; (viii) the impact of team services on emergency room visits; (ix)
54 the involvement of law enforcement in mental health or substance use disorder events; (x)

CORRECTED

55 anonymized demographic information of clients, in order to identify and address health
56 disparities; (xi) diversion from jails; and (xii) other outcomes of team interactions.

57 The special commission shall evaluate the effectiveness of teams and collaboration
58 efforts, identifying best practices and model programs for the commonwealth. Not later than 6
59 months after the first meeting of the special commission, the special commission shall submit a
60 detailed report with its proposals and recommendations, along with drafts of legislation
61 necessary to carry out its recommendations, to the clerks of the house of representatives and the
62 senate, the joint committee on public safety and homeland security and the joint committee on
63 public health and the governor. The clerks of the house of representatives and senate shall make
64 the report available to the public via the internet.

65 SECTION 4. The secretary may promulgate rules and regulations necessary to implement
66 this act.