

SENATE No. 1275

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Julian Cyr

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 Office of Behavioral Health Promotion.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Julian Cyr</i>	<i>Cape and Islands</i>	
<i>Joanne M. Comerford</i>	<i>Hampshire, Franklin and Worcester</i>	<i>3/19/2021</i>
<i>Susannah M. Whipps</i>	<i>2nd Franklin</i>	<i>3/25/2021</i>
<i>Sal N. DiDomenico</i>	<i>Middlesex and Suffolk</i>	<i>4/2/2021</i>
<i>Natalie M. Higgins</i>	<i>4th Worcester</i>	<i>9/14/2021</i>

SENATE No. 1275

By Mr. Cyr, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1275) of Julian Cyr, Joanne M. Comerford, Susannah M. Whipps and Sal N. DiDomenico for legislation to establish an Office of Behavioral Health Promotion. Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act establishing an Office of Behavioral Health Promotion.

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. Chapter 6A of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after Section
2 16BB the following new section:-

3 Section 16CC. (a) There shall be an office of behavioral health promotion within the
4 executive office of health and human services. The office shall be under the supervision and
5 control of a director of behavioral health promotion who shall be appointed by and shall report to
6 the secretary of health and human services.

7 (b) The office shall coordinate all activities of the commonwealth to promote the mental,
8 emotional, and behavioral health and wellness of all residents. The office shall set goals for the
9 promotion of mental health and the prevention of mental health and substance use conditions.
10 The office shall fully integrate health equity principles and apply a health equity lens to all its
11 work. The office will prepare and implement an annual plan for the commonwealth.

12 The office shall collaborate with the executive offices, state agencies, independent
13 agencies, and state commissions, including but not limited to, the executive office of health and
14 human services, the executive office of education, the executive office of elder affairs, the
15 department of mental health, department of public health, department of children and families,
16 department of veterans' services, department of early education and care, department of
17 elementary and secondary education, office for refugees and immigrants, office of health equity,
18 office of the child advocate, and the Massachusetts commission on LGBTQ youth. The office
19 shall facilitate communication and partnership between these entities to develop greater
20 understanding of the intersections between agency activities and behavioral health promotion
21 and illness prevention.

22 (c) The office shall: (1) facilitate the development of interagency initiatives that are
23 informed by the science of promotion and prevention, advance health equity and trauma-
24 informed care, and address the social determinants of health; (2) develop and implement a
25 comprehensive plan to strengthen community and state-level promotion and prevention
26 programming and infrastructure through training, technical assistance, resource development and
27 dissemination, and other initiatives; (3) advance the identification and dissemination of evidence-
28 based and promising practices designed to further behavioral health promotion and prevent
29 mental health and substance use conditions and associated disability; (4) collect and analyze data
30 measuring population-based indicators of behavioral health from existing data sources, track
31 changes over time, and make programming and policy recommendations to address the needs of
32 populations at greatest risk; (4) coordinate the behavioral health promotion and wellness
33 programs, campaigns, and initiatives of the Commonwealth; and (5) provide staffing support for
34 the community behavioral health promotion and prevention commission, established in

35 Massachusetts General Laws, Part 1, Title II, Chapter 6, Section 219. The office may enter into
36 service agreements with the department of mental health or the department of public health to
37 fulfill the obligations of the office.

38 (d) The office shall prepare an annual report to evaluate its progress, and the overall
39 progress of the Commonwealth, toward promoting mental, emotional, and behavioral wellness,
40 and preventing mental health and substance use conditions using, where possible, quantifiable
41 measures and comparative benchmarks. The report shall be filed with the governor, the clerks of
42 the house of representatives and senate, and the chairs of the joint committee on mental health,
43 substance use and recovery not later than July 1. The report shall be posted on the official
44 website of the commonwealth.

45 (e) The secretary of the executive office of health and human services may expend
46 revenue generated from section 27 of chapter 133 of the acts of 2019 for any operating costs
47 associated with the office of behavioral health promotion.