

SENATE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Joanne M. Comerford

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 resolve:

Resolve providing for an investigation and study by a special commission relative to long COVID related needs in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Joanne M. Comerford</i>	<i>Hampshire, Franklin and Worcester</i>	
<i>Rebecca L. Rausch</i>	<i>Norfolk, Worcester and Middlesex</i>	<i>7/11/2023</i>

SENATE No.

By Ms. Comerford, a petition (accompanied by resolve) (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Joanne M. Comerford for legislation to provide for an investigation and study by a special commission relative to long COVID related needs in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Public Health.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court
(2023-2024)**

Resolve providing for an investigation and study by a special commission relative to long COVID related needs in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

1 **Resolved**, that a special commission is hereby established (1) for the purpose of
2 identifying the socio-economic, medical, public health, mental health, social, and fiscal needs
3 related to the surveillance, care and treatment of persons with Long COVID in the
4 commonwealth, and (2) for the purpose of recommending and prioritizing governmental and
5 legislative actions related to the said needs of people living with Long COVID in the
6 commonwealth, and to ensure that any such recommendations consider the disparate impacts of
7 Long COVID on populations across the commonwealth and our commitment to equity, including
8 racial, cultural and regional equity.

9 Resolved, The special commission shall consist of: 1 person to be appointed by the
10 Speaker of the House; 1 person to be appointed by the senate president; 1 of whom shall be the
11 Secretary of EOHHS or a designee, who will act as chair; 1 of whom shall be the MassHealth
12 Director or a designee; 1 of whom shall be the Secretary of Labor and Workforce Development
13 or a designee, 1 of whom shall be the commissioner of the Department of Public Health or a

14 designee; 1 of whom shall be the commissioner of the Department of Mental Health or a
15 designee; 1 of whom shall be director of the statewide independent living council or a designee;
16 1 of whom shall be the chancellor of UMass Chan Medical School or a designee with expertise
17 in medical education curriculum, 1 of whom shall be the medical director of the COVID
18 Recovery Center or a designee; 1 of whom shall be the president of the Mass Medical Society or
19 a designee with expertise in continuing professional education; 1 of whom shall be the president
20 of the Massachusetts Nurses Association or a designee with expertise in clinical care and MNA
21 continuing education; 1 of whom shall be the executive director of the Massachusetts National
22 Association of Social Workers or a designee with expertise in clinical practice and professional
23 development; 1 of whom shall be the director of the Health Equity Core of the Harvard Medical
24 School's Massachusetts Consortium on Pathogen Readiness or a designee; 2 persons who are
25 living with Long COVID to be appointed by the governor; and 1 person from a community-
26 based organization currently serving people living with Long COVID to be appointed by the
27 Governor.

28 Said commission will ensure that its meetings shall be open to the public, notes will be
29 taken and made available. The appointment of the commissioners shall occur within 30 days
30 after the effective date of this resolve. The commission shall convene its first meeting no later
31 than 45 days after the bill's enactment.

32 Said commission shall report to the Clerks of the House of Representatives and Senate,
33 the Speaker of the House, the Senate President, the chairs of the joint committee on ways and
34 means, the joint committee on public health, the joint committee on health care financing, the
35 joint committee on COVID-19 & emergency preparedness & management, and the governor, the
36 results of its investigation and its recommendations, together with drafts of legislation or

37 regulations necessary to carry its recommendations into effect, by filing the same with the clerk
38 of the house of representatives and the clerk of the senate on or before March 1, 2024.

39 The special commission shall dissolve 30 days after the submission of the report, unless
40 upon a 2/3 vote of the Commission, a continuance is deemed necessary to complete the purpose
41 of the Commission. The time frame of said continuance must be specified in the motion to
42 extend time of operation.