

HOUSE No. 885

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

David T. Vieira

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 a special commission on the field of emergency management.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>David T. Vieira</i>	<i>3rd Barnstable</i>	<i>1/14/2025</i>

HOUSE No. 885

By Representative Vieira of Falmouth, a petition (accompanied by resolve, House, No. 885) of David T. Vieira for an investigation by a special commission (including members of the General Court) relative to the field of emergency management. Emergency Preparedness and Management.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 740 OF 2023-2024.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court
(2025-2026)**
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Resolve providing for a special commission on the field of emergency management.

1 **Resolved**, there is hereby established a special commission entitled the “special
2 commission on the field of emergency management” to study and make recommendations
3 concerning the development of the field of emergency management as a profession in the
4 Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

5 SECTION 1. Terminology

6 Emergency [Disaster] Management: Defined by the Federal Emergency Management
7 Agency (FEMA), emergency management is: “The managerial function charged with creating
8 the framework within which communities reduce vulnerability to hazards and cope with
9 disasters.”

10 Emergency Management Field: The U.S. Bureau and Labor Statistics asserts this is the
11 profession in which plans and procedures are prepared for responding to natural disasters or
12 other emergencies. The field also helps to lead the response during and after emergencies. Most
13 emergency management professionals work for local or state governments; while others work for
14 organizations such as hospitals, colleges and universities, or private companies.

15 Professionalization: Definitions (2022) coins professionalization as, “the social process
16 by which any trade or occupation transforms itself into a true ‘profession of the highest integrity
17 and competence.’ This process tends to involve establishing acceptable qualifications, a
18 professional body or association to oversee the conduct of members of the profession and some
19 degree of demarcation of the qualified from unqualified amateurs.”

20 Disaster: Defined by the Federal Emergency Management Agency as, “An occurrence of
21 a natural catastrophe, technological accident, or human-caused event that has resulted in severe
22 property damage, deaths, and/or multiple injuries.”

23 SECTION 2. The special commission shall consist of 21 members:

24 6 members of the general court, the house and senate chairs of the joint committee on
25 public safety and homeland security, or the chairs’ designees; the house and senate chairs of the
26 joint committee on Covid-19 and emergency preparedness and management, or the chairs’
27 designees, 1 member appointed by the house minority leader, and 1 member appointed by the
28 senate minority leader;

29 the secretary of the Massachusetts executive office of public safety and security, or the
30 secretary’s designee;

31 the director of the Massachusetts emergency management agency, or the director's
32 designee;

33 two representatives from the federal emergency management agency (FEMA) appointed
34 by the administrator of FEMA Region I;

35 the colonel of the Massachusetts state police, or the colonel's designee;

36 the state fire marshal of the Massachusetts department of fire services, or the marshal's
37 designee;

38 three local emergency management directors appointed by the governor;

39 two representatives from academia appointed by the governor from a list of five names
40 provided by the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM);

41 two representatives appointed by the division of professional licensure;

42 two representatives appointed by the governor from a list of five names provided by the
43 Massachusetts voluntary organizations active in disaster (VOAD);

44 SECTION 3. The special commission shall study and make recommendations relative to
45 the following four initiatives needed for the creation and furtherance of the emergency
46 management profession in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts:

47 1) Funding of directorships. Review and report on funding options for emergency
48 management director positions in all 351 Massachusetts communities, taking into consideration
49 no responsibilities other than emergency management.

50 2) Education programs. Review and report on recommended institutions and funding to
51 establish emergency management programs to train emergency management associates and
52 directors.

53 3) Scholarships. Review and report on scholarships to attend institutions of higher
54 education specifically for emergency management programs.

55 4) Licensure. Review and report on establishing a licensure process for emergency
56 management directors in Massachusetts that will coincide with federal and interstate licensure
57 developments, mirroring social work and other licensed professions, for professional
58 accountability and credibility.

59 SECTION 4. The special commission shall file its final report with the clerks of the
60 senate and the house of representatives and the house and senate chairs of the joint committee on
61 public safety and homeland security, 365 days after the date of the first meeting of the special
62 commission.