

SENATE No. 1293

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 establishing a special commission on paid family and medical leave for public employees.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Joanne M. Comerford

Hampshire, Franklin and Worcester

SENATE No. 1293

By Ms. Comerford, a petition (accompanied by resolve, Senate, No. 1293) of Joanne M. Comerford for legislation to establish a special commission on paid family and medical leave for public employees. Labor and Workforce Development.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court
(2025-2026)**

Resolve establishing a special commission on paid family and medical leave for public employees.

1 **Resolved**, There shall be a special commission pursuant to section 2A of chapter 4 of the
2 General Laws to study the socio-economic impacts of and possible funding mechanisms for
3 providing public and quasi-public employees with universal paid family and medical leave, as
4 established under chapter 175M of the General Laws.

5 The commission shall study and prepare a report including, but not limited to: (i) the
6 costs associated with providing universal paid family medical leave to all public employees; (ii)
7 the available or potential new funding mechanisms to establish state universal paid family
8 medical leave for all public employees; (iii) the socio-economic impacts for workforce and
9 economic development in the commonwealth of providing universal paid family and medical
10 leave for all public employees, and the socio-economic impacts for workforce and economic
11 development in the commonwealth of not providing universal paid family and medical leave for
12 all public employees; (iv) the equity gap for women, individuals who identify as lesbian, gay,
13 bisexual, transgender or queer and individuals from historically marginalized communities in

14 paid family and medical leave coverage; and (v) recommendations to implement universal paid
15 family and medical leave for all public employees in the commonwealth.

16 The commission shall include the house and senate chairs of the joint committee on labor
17 and workforce development, who shall serve as co-chairs, the governor or a designee, the
18 speaker of the house of representatives or a designee, the president of the senate or a designee,
19 the minority leader of the house of representatives or a designee, the minority leader of the
20 senate or a designee, the house and senate chairs of the joint committee on education or a
21 designee, the chairs of the joint committee on municipalities and regional government or a
22 designee, a member of the commission on the status of women, a member of the commission on
23 the status of African Americans, a member of the commission on the status of Latinos and
24 Latinas, and 1 member to be appointed by each of the following organizations: the
25 Massachusetts Municipal Association, the Massachusetts Taxpayer Foundation, the
26 Massachusetts Budget and Policy Center, the Massachusetts Teachers Association and SEIU
27 Local 509. Members shall not receive compensation for their services but may receive
28 reimbursement for the reasonable expenses incurred in carrying out their responsibilities as
29 members of the commission. The department of revenue shall provide reasonable technical
30 assistance, as needed, to the chairs of the commission.

31 Prior to issuing its recommendations, the commission shall conduct not fewer than 3
32 public hearings across regions of the commonwealth. The commission shall file its report on or
33 before July 30, 2026. A copy of the report and recommendations shall be made publicly
34 available on the Massachusetts legislature's website and shall be submitted to the secretary of the
35 executive office of labor and workforce development, the secretary of administration and

36 finance, the speaker of the house and the president of the senate and the clerks of the senate and
37 house of representatives.