SENATE DOCKET, NO. 703 FILED ON: 1/14/2025

SENATE . . . . . No. 1590

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Michael O. Moore

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 sexual assault counselor certification task force.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
Michael O. Moore	*Second Worcester*	
Susannah M. Whipps	*2nd Franklin*	*1/30/2025*
James B. Eldridge	*Middlesex and Worcester*	*2/20/2025*
James K. Hawkins	*2nd Bristol*	*2/20/2025*

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By Mr. Moore, a petition (accompanied by resolve, Senate, No. 1590) of Michael O. Moore, Susannah M. Whipps, James B. Eldridge and James K. Hawkins that provisions be made for an investigation and study by a task force relative to establishing a sexual assault counselor certification task force. Public Health.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. *1432* OF 2023-2024.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

Resolve establishing a sexual assault counselor certification task force.

Resolved, There shall be a task force to make recommendations on establishing statewide certification and updating training standards for sexual assault counselors.

The task force shall be comprised of the following members: the commissioner of the department of public health or a designee, who shall serve as chair; 1 member designated by the governor's council, who shall address sexual assault and domestic violence issues; 1 member designated by Pathways for Change, Inc.; 1 member designated by Boston Area Rape Crisis Center; 1 member designated by the Center for Hope & Healing; 1 member from the Victim Rights Law Center, Inc.; 1 member designated by Jane Doe, Inc.; 1 member from the Massachusetts office of victim assistance; and no more than 3 members who shall be a sexual assault survivor(s) designated by consensus of Pathways for Change, Inc., the Boston Area Rape Crisis Center and the Center for Hope & Healing.

The task force shall make recommendations on: (i) updating the statutory definition of "rape crisis center" and "sexual assault counsellor" in section 20J of chapter 233 of the general laws; (ii) the curriculum and number of training hours required for certification of rape crisis center and program employees; (iii) the curriculum and number of training hours required for volunteer positions; (iv) the appropriateness of "levels" of certification and corresponding criteria for each if so; (v) a fee structure for certification; (vi) the feasibility of and costs associated with establishing and maintaining licensure of rape crisis centers; and (vii) the feasibility of providing continuing education and college credits with the completion of training programs.

The task force shall submit a report outlining its findings, along with any proposed legislation, to the clerks of the senate and the house of representatives and to the chairs of the senate and the house committees on ways and means not later than 12 months after the effective date of this act.