

**SENATE . . . . . No. 1598**

---

---

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

*Patrick M. O'Connor*

*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 a special commission to find the best practices to promote education, awareness, and prevention of Lyme disease.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Patrick M. O'Connor</i>	<i>First Plymouth and Norfolk</i>	
<i>Joanne M. Comerford</i>	<i>Hampshire, Franklin and Worcester</i>	<i>1/31/2025</i>

**SENATE . . . . . No. 1598**

---

---

By Mr. O'Connor, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1598) of Patrick M. O'Connor and Joanne M. Comerford for legislation to establish a special commission to find the best practices to promote education, awareness, and prevention of Lyme disease. Public Health.

---

---

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE SENATE, NO. 1442 OF 2023-2024.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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

An Act establishing a special commission to find the best practices to promote education, awareness, and prevention of Lyme disease.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1           Notwithstanding any special or general law there shall be a special commission to study  
2 the feasibility and best practices for a statewide education and awareness program to prevent the  
3 contraction of Lyme disease and tick borne illnesses.

4           The special commission shall consist of: the secretary of health and human services, or  
5 their designee; the commissioner of the department of public health, or their designee; a  
6 representative from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; two members of the House  
7 of Representatives, one of whom to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of  
8 Representatives, and the other to be appointed by the minority leader; two members of the  
9 Senate, one of whom to be appointed by the President of the Senate, and the other to be

10 appointed by the minority leader; one member who has been diagnosed with Lyme Disease;  
11 provided, however, that the first meeting of the commission shall take place not later than  
12 December 1, 2025.

13           The special commission shall submit its recommendations, together with drafts of any  
14 legislation, to the clerks of the House of Representatives and the Senate, the chairs of the joint  
15 committee on mental health and substance abuse not later than July 1, 2026.