

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

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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PRESENTED BY:

***Patrick M. O'Connor***

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*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 commission to study the Commonwealth’s response to and resources for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

\_\_\_\_\_

PETITION OF:

NAME:

*Patrick M. O'Connor*

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

*First Plymouth and Norfolk*

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

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[Pin Slip]

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[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE SENATE, NO. 1576 OF 2023-2024.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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

Resolve establishing a commission to study the Commonwealth’s response to and resources for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

1           **Resolved**, Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, there shall be  
2 established a special commission to study the Commonwealth’s response to and resources for  
3 victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

4           (a) The commission shall be comprised of the following members: the commissioner of  
5 probation; the director of the juvenile court probation department; the director of the probate and  
6 family court probation department; the director of the office of community corrections; the  
7 director of the electronic monitoring center; the executive director of the governor’s council to  
8 address sexual assault and domestic violence; an assistant attorney general to be appointed by the  
9 attorney general; the secretary of the executive office of public safety and security; the director  
10 of the Massachusetts office for victim assistance; two SAFEPLAN advocates to be appointed by  
11 the director of the Massachusetts office for victim assistance; the director of Jane Doe Inc. of  
12 Boston; the director of New Hope, Inc. of Attleboro; the director of the South Shore Resource

13 and Advocacy Center; the director of the Massachusetts intimate partner abuse education  
14 program; a law enforcement officer with experience in domestic violence and sexual assault  
15 cases to be appointed by the governor; the head of the domestic violence unit within the Boston  
16 police department; and two survivors of domestic abuse to be appointed by the governor. The  
17 board shall be chaired by the director of the Massachusetts office for victim assistance. Each  
18 such member may appoint a designee to serve in the member's place.

19 (b) The commission shall analyze current resource offerings to victims of domestic  
20 violence and sexual assault; study the efficiency of state departments in maintaining victim  
21 safety, including but not limited to probation departments; consider ways to provide robust  
22 opportunities for victim and community engagement, ongoing analysis, and oversight of  
23 probation department policies, practices, and procedures; analyze income-based privileges and  
24 disadvantages for victims in participating with probation proceedings; consider ways to ensure  
25 that victims are part of the probation process while holding offenders accountable and  
26 simultaneously reducing the rates of recidivism; analyze probation violation reporting advisories  
27 and other written resources and whether they are helpful, understandable, and effective for  
28 victims; and determine the feasibility of a complaint communication tool for victims to report  
29 probation officer misconduct.

30 (c) The first meeting of the commission shall take place no later than December 1, 2025  
31 and shall be organized by the director of the Massachusetts office for victim assistance.

32 (d) The commission shall produce a report of their findings and analysis along with any  
33 recommendations for legislation to the Clerks of the House and Senate and the chairs of the Joint  
34 Committee on the Judiciary no later than December 1, 2026.