

HOUSE No. 01424

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Elizabeth A. Malia

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 passage of the accompanying Resolve:

An Act establishing a crisis intervention training working group.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Elizabeth A. Malia</i>	<i>11th Suffolk</i>
<i>James Arciero</i>	<i>2nd Middlesex</i>
<i>Denise Provost</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>
<i>Angelo M. Scaccia</i>	<i>14th Suffolk</i>
<i>Denise Andrews</i>	<i>2nd Franklin</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>

HOUSE No. 01424

By Ms. Malia of Boston, a petition (accompanied by resolve, House, No. 1424) of Elizabeth A. Malia and others for legislation to establish a working group (including members of the General Court) relative to mental illness. Mental Health and Substance Abuse.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Eleven

RESOLVE An Act establishing a crisis intervention training working group

Resolved,

1 SECTION 1. There is hereby established a working group to study Crisis Intervention Training
2 (CIT), including jail diversion, mental health courts and other matters relative to the
3 decriminalization of mental illness. The working group shall also study any state or local
4 obstacles that may hinder the broader utilization of universal and effective models throughout the
5 commonwealth. The working group shall report its findings and conclusions to the general court
6 and make recommendations regarding any necessary legislative and regulatory changes which
7 are suggested by those findings and conclusions. The first meeting of the working group shall
8 take place within 30 days after the effective date of this act.

9 SECTION 2. The working group shall consist of: the house and senate chairs of the joint
10 committee on mental health and substance abuse who shall serve as the co-chairs; two appointees
11 of the national alliance on mental illness of massachusetts, one of whom shall be the executive
12 director; two appointees from the association of behavioral healthcare, one of whom shall be the
13 executive director; the commissioner of the department of mental health or his/her designee; the
14 secretary of public safety or his/her designee; the commissioner of the department of public

15 health or his/her designee; two appointees of the governor, one of whom shall be a consumer of
16 mental health services.

17 SECTION 3. In carrying out its charge, the working group shall examine, report on, and make
18 recommendations regarding the following matters:

19 a) estimates of financing and costs, as well as savings to the law enforcement communities,
20 of implementing effective decriminalization programs, including but not limited to the sources of
21 such financing, including feasible approaches to obtaining such financing;

22 b) examples of successful implementation of effective models implemented in the
23 commonwealth and other states;

24 c) resources, support and training needs required locally in order to offer and implement
25 adequate decriminalization programs, including but not limited to jail diversion, CIT, mental
26 health courts and other related matters;

27 d) the most effective and efficient methods for requiring state and local training of all public
28 safety personnel including exploring offering said training as part of all incoming public safety
29 classes;

30 e) the obstacles to broader utilization of decriminalization programs, including but not
31 limited to jail diversion, CIT, mental health courts and other programs in cities and towns;

32 f) best practices that presently exist within and outside of the commonwealth relative to
33 mental illness and the criminal justice system.

34 SECTION 4. The working group shall solicit advice from such persons and entities as it deems
35 necessary, including but not limited to the department of corrections, state agencies, associations
36 representing police officers and other public safety officials, consumers of mental health
37 services, family members of people with mental illness, and other states which have employed
38 effective and highly regarded programs and municipal officials.

39 SECTION 5. The working group shall file a report containing its recommendations, including
40 legislation and regulations necessary to carry out its recommendations, with the joint committee
41 on mental health and substance abuse and the clerks of the house and senate not later than 6
42 months following the first meeting of the working group.