

HOUSE No. 01434

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

David B. Sullivan

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:

Resolve providing for an investigation and study by a special commission relative to the intake procedures of the executive office of health and human services.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

David B. Sullivan

6th Bristol

Ellen Story

3rd Hampshire

HOUSE No. 01434

By Mr. Sullivan of Fall River, a petition (accompanied by resolve, House, No. 1434) of David B. Sullivan and Ellen Story for an investigation by a special commission (including members of the General Court) of the intake procedures of the Executive Office of Health and Human Services. Mental Health and Substance Abuse.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Eleven

RESOLVE Resolve providing for an investigation and study by a special commission relative to the intake procedures of the executive office of health and human services

Resolved,

1 Resolved, that a special commission to consist of the chairs of the senate and house committees
2 on mental health and substance abuse, who shall serve as co-chairman of the commission, 2
3 members of the senate, 1 to be appointed by the minority leader, 2 members of the house of
4 representatives, 1 to be appointed by the minority leader, the secretary of the executive office of
5 health and human services or her designee, 1 member from each department of said executive
6 office and 1 member to be appointed by the governor is hereby established for the purpose of
7 making an investigation and study of the intake procedures of agencies that provide direct
8 services within the said executive office.

9 The commission shall consider that individuals may be inadvertently put at risks, especially
10 during such tight financial times, by denials of service because their specific disability(ies) may
11 not fit in to the admissions criteria for one particular agency. For these individuals, failing
12 natural support systems need to be supplemental or replaced to avert a crisis situation which will

13 be more costly and potentially dangerous; and that dual diagnosis individuals who may be
14 resistant treatment; and that when a current support system is neither appropriate or safe for the
15 individual who might need guidance, support, treatment, and/or guardianship.

16 The commission shall make recommendations about establishing a office of secondary intake
17 review at the executive office of health and human services level whose mission will be to (a)
18 evaluate the cases of individuals who do not fit exactly into the admission criteria for existing
19 agencies but who require services to minimize risks to self or others, who need support services
20 to maintain hierarchy of needs (such as food, clothing, shelter, etc.), and who obviously need
21 treatment but are unable to facilitate and navigate the course of the appeals process due to
22 interacting symptomology, addiction, lack of insight, low intelligence, or who are influenced by
23 individuals who exploit them and otherwise do not act in the best interest of the individual, or
24 other factors; (b) determine if cross-agency participation is needed to meet the individual's needs
25 and (c) refer the individual to the appropriate agency. The commission shall also make
26 recommendations regarding the process by which cases will be referred to the office of
27 secondary intake review, taking into consideration that the responsibility will lie with the
28 respective agencies to make such referrals.

29 The commission shall solicit information and input from non-profit human service providers in
30 the commonwealth as necessary.

31 The commission shall report to the general court the results of its investigation and study, and its
32 recommendations, if any, together with drafts of legislation necessary to carry such
33 recommendations into effect by filing them with the clerk of the senate and the clerk of the house
34 of representatives on or before June 30, 2012. The commission may issue preliminary or interim
35 reports to the general court before that date.