

HOUSE No. 1813

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

James J. O'Day

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 relative to Department of Mental Health citizen boards.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

James J. O'Day

Harriette L. Chandler

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

14th Worcester

First Worcester

HOUSE No. 1813

By Mr. O'Day of West Boylston, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1813) of James J. O'Day and Harriette L. Chandler relative to Department of Mental Health citizen boards. Mental Health and Substance Abuse.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court
(2015-2016)**

An Act relative to Department of Mental Health citizen boards.

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

1 Section 1: Chapter 19 of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking out in section
2 8A, as appearing in the 2008 Official Edition, the words Medfield, Westborough and Worcester,
3 and inserting in place thereof the words:- and the Worcester Recovery Center and Hospital

4 Section 2: Said chapter 19 is hereby further amended by striking out section 14, as so
5 appearing, and inserting in place thereof the following section: -

6 14. In each area established under section 12 there shall be a community mental health
7 area board, hereinafter called the area board, which shall be an agency of the commonwealth,
8 and shall serve in the department. The area board shall consist of as least fifteen members, who
9 shall be appointed by the commissioner. Two thirds of the members shall live within the area for
10 which they are appointed, and the remaining members shall either live or work within said area.
11 The commissioner shall seek to provide proper geographical representation in the membership of
12 the board.

13 Two thirds of such members shall be persons other than employees of the
14 commonwealth. No member shall be an employee of the department.

15 Upon the expiration of the term of any member of the area board, a successor shall be
16 appointed, in like manner, for a term of three years. In the event of vacancy, the commissioner
17 may, in like manner, appoint a member who shall serve for the remainder of the unexpired term.
18 Members of the board shall serve without compensation, and shall be sworn to the faithful
19 performance of their duties. The area board shall suggest for consideration by the commissioner
20 one or more names for each such expiring term or vacancy. No member shall be appointed for
21 more than two consecutive three-year terms.