

HOUSE No. 2226

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Ruth B. Balser

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 creating a commission to study the need to reduce salt and sugar content in meals served in restaurants, schools, and public spaces.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Ruth B. Balser</i>	<i>12th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/22/2021</i>
<i>Linda Dean Campbell</i>	<i>15th Essex</i>	<i>4/1/2021</i>
<i>Richard M. Haggerty</i>	<i>30th Middlesex</i>	<i>4/7/2021</i>
<i>Lindsay N. Sabadosa</i>	<i>1st Hampshire</i>	<i>4/9/2021</i>
<i>James J. O'Day</i>	<i>14th Worcester</i>	<i>4/14/2021</i>

HOUSE No. 2226

By Ms. Balsler of Newton, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2226) of Ruth B. Balsler and others for legislation to establish a commission (including members of the General Court) to study the need to reduce salt and sugar content in meals served in restaurants, schools, and public spaces. Public Health.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 4558 OF 2019-2020.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Second General Court
(2021-2022)**
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An Act creating a commission to study the need to reduce salt and sugar content in meals served in restaurants, schools, and public spaces.

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: There shall be a commission to study the relationship between elevated
2 sodium and added sugars in meals served in restaurants, schools, hospitals, worksites,
3 government buildings, and other places of public accommodation and its impact on public
4 health.

5 The commission shall consist of the Commissioner of Public Health, or her designee,
6 who shall serve as chair; the House and Senate Chairs of the Joint Committee on Public Health,
7 or their designees; the House and Senate Chairs of the Joint Committee on Health Care
8 Financing or their designees; and the following nine members, each of whom shall have
9 expertise in the field of nutrition and dietetics, whom the Governor shall appoint: a

10 representative of the food industry; a representative from the area of meal preparation for public
11 schools in the Commonwealth; a representative in the area of food services at health care
12 facilities; a representative from the medical community with specialization in cardiology; a
13 representative from the medical community with specialization in endocrinology; a
14 representative from the medical community with specialization in kidney disease; a
15 representative from the medical community with specialization in gastroenterology; a
16 representative who is an expert in nutrition and dietetics who is a faculty member at a college or
17 university in Massachusetts; a representative from the health insurance industry; and a
18 representative from the non-profit community in the field of education and advocacy for the
19 accommodation of foods for individuals that have been prescribed a special diet because of a
20 chronic medical condition or a food allergy.

21 The commission shall study the impacts of added sugar and elevated sodium in meals
22 sold or provided in restaurants, schools, hospitals, work sites, government buildings, and other
23 public spaces on public health in the Commonwealth. The commission shall make
24 recommendations regarding the actions required to educate food providers and the public about
25 these impacts. In addition, the commission shall consider issues related to health, healthcare,
26 disparities in nutrition, and costs to the individual, community, and medical system, that arise
27 because of elevated sodium and added sugars in foods sold and served in public spaces in the
28 Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

29 The Commission shall publish its findings and recommendations, together with drafts of
30 legislation, if any, necessary to carry those recommendations into effect, in a written report no
31 later than 2 years after the effective date of this act. The report shall be filed with the clerks of

- 32 the house of representatives and the senate, the house and senate committees on ways and means,
- 33 the joint committee on public health, and the joint committee on healthcare financing.