

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 3183**

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

*James J. Dwyer*

*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 bill:

An Act establishing a special commission to create a state office of veterans business assistance.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>James J. Dwyer</i>	<i>30th Middlesex</i>
<i>Carlo Basile</i>	<i>1st Suffolk</i>
<i>Stephen L. DiNatale</i>	<i>3rd Worcester</i>
<i>Dennis A. Rosa</i>	<i>4th Worcester</i>
<i>Sal N. DiDomenico</i>	<i>Middlesex and Suffolk</i>
<i>Jerald A. Parisella</i>	<i>6th Essex</i>
<i>Karen E. Spilka</i>	<i>Second Middlesex and Norfolk</i>
<i>Carolyn C. Dykema</i>	<i>8th Middlesex</i>
<i>Sean Garballey</i>	<i>23rd Middlesex</i>
<i>Bruce E. Tarr</i>	<i>First Essex and Middlesex</i>

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By Mr. Dwyer of Woburn, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3183) of James J. Dwyer and others for an investigation and study by a special commission (including members of the General Court) relative to creating a state office of veterans business assistance. Veterans and Federal Affairs.

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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**In the Year Two Thousand Thirteen**

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An Act establishing a special commission to create a state office of veterans business assistance.

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

1           There shall be a special commission to study and make recommendations to create a state  
2 office of veterans business assistance. The commission shall consist of 13 members: 3 of whom  
3 shall be appointed by the speaker of the house; 2 of whom shall be appointed by the house  
4 minority leader; 3 of whom shall be appointed by the senate president; 2 of whom shall be  
5 appointed by the senate minority leader; 1 of whom shall be appointed by the secretary of labor  
6 and workforce development; 1 of whom shall be appointed by the secretary of veterans services;  
7 and 1 of whom shall be appointed by the governor. The speaker of the house and the senate  
8 president shall determine which 2 members of the commission shall serve as co-chairpersons.

9           The commission shall identify opportunities to help promote the development of business  
10 enterprises and non-profit organizations owned and operated by veterans and make such other  
11 recommendations as the commission deems appropriate, with the goal of expanding business and  
12 non-profit opportunities for veterans. The commission shall consider barriers facing veterans  
13 seeking to start business or nonprofits, better access to capital and financing, ways in which  
14 veterans can be given certification similar to that of the state office of minority and women  
15 business assistance, and relationships that can be formed with state agencies and financial  
16 institutions with veterans. The commission shall also seek to identify opportunities to maximize  
17 revenues, such as federal grants and matching funds.

18           The commission may hold hearings and invite testimony from experts and the public.  
19 The commission shall review and identify best practices learned from similar efforts in other  
20 states.

21           Members of the commission shall be named and the commission shall commence its  
22 work within 60 days of the effective date of this act. The commission shall report to the general  
23 court the results of its investigation and study, and recommendations, if any, together with drafts  
24 of legislation necessary to carry its recommendations into effect by filing the same with the  
25 clerks of the senate and the house of representatives on or before January 15, 2014. The clerks  
26 of the house and senate shall make the report available to the public through the internet.