

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 03865

By Mr. Sánchez of Boston, for the committee on Public Health, on House, No. 2908, a Bill relative to the establishment of a commission to modernize HIV/AIDS Prevention and treatment (House, No. 3865). December 29, 2011.

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Eleven

An Act relative to the establishment of a commission to modernize HIV/AIDS Prevention and treatment.

*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 special commission for the purpose of devising a statewide  
2 strategy to modernize HIV/AIDS testing, prevention and treatment in the commonwealth. The  
3 commission shall consist of the following members: 2 members appointed by the speaker of the  
4 house; 1 member appointed by the house minority leader; 2 members appointed by the senate  
5 president; 1 member appointed by the senate minority leader; the commissioner of public health  
6 or a designee; the director of the bureau of infectious diseases; the director of the office of  
7 HIV/AIDS; the director of the bureau of substance abuse; a member of the massachusetts  
8 department of public health statewide consumer advisory board; 3 members representing HIV  
9 and AIDS community-based organizations; 3 clinicians with expertise in HIV epidemiology or  
10 research; and 1 representative from the massachusetts medical society.

11 SECTION 2. The commission shall develop a comprehensive plan to address the goals of  
12 increasing routine HIV testing while ensuring patient privacy, reducing the number of people  
13 who become infected with HIV, increasing access to care and optimizing health outcomes for  
14 people living with HIV, and reducing HIV-related health disparities in the commonwealth, as  
15 called for by the national HIV/AIDS strategy, including a consensus budget proposal, capable of  
16 being implemented over a 5 year period, with a focus as follows:-

17 (a) To ensure the collaboration of relevant agencies and organizations in the commonwealth  
18 involved with testing, prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS;

19 (b) To review the goals and recommendations of the national HIV/AIDS strategy and  
20 analyze how effective current programs, services, and policies of the commonwealth are at  
21 meeting these goals;

22 (c) To review results of surveillance data, including hepatitis c co-infection rates, substance  
23 use, and recent research developments including pre- and post-exposure prophylaxis,  
24 microbical gels, and deployment of rapid testing, and determine the best way to utilize these  
25 new tools and data in prevention programs across the state, which may include additional  
26 research or surveillance carried out by the department of public health in partnership with  
27 relevant community-based organizations and health providers;

28 (d) To review research and data on HIV-related health disparities in the commonwealth,  
29 including the department of public health reports, "an added burden: the impact of the HIV/AIDS  
30 epidemic on communities of color in massachusetts," and, "the health of lesbian, gay, bisexual,  
31 and transgender persons in massachusetts," and to specifically address the needs of these  
32 populations in the comprehensive plan; and

33 (e) To carry out an analysis of the financial and organizational feasibility of utilizing existing  
34 state resources for implementing a comprehensive plan to reduce HIV/AIDS and ensure that the  
35 state maximizes its ability to leverage outside resources from federal, municipal, and private  
36 sources.

37 SECTION 3. The commission shall be established within 90 days of passage of this act, shall  
38 hold at least one public hearing, and shall submit its findings and recommendations to the joint  
39 committee on public health on or before december 31, 2012.