

HOUSE No. 4114

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

Resolve providing for an investigation and study by a special commission relative to robotic surgery in the Commonwealth.

1 Resolved, That there shall be a special commission on robotic surgery which shall make
2 an investigation and study relative to the use of robotic surgery. The commission shall consist of
3 3 members of the senate, 1 of whom shall be the senate chair of the joint committee on public
4 health, 1 of whom shall be a member of the majority party and 1 of whom shall be a member of
5 the minority party to be appointed by the minority leader; provided however, that 1 member of
6 the senate shall be designated as co-chair of the commission; 3 members of the house of
7 representatives, 1 of whom shall be the house chair of the joint committee on public health, 1 of
8 whom shall be a member of the majority party and 1 of whom shall be a member of the minority
9 party who shall be appointed by the minority leader; provided, however, that 1 member of the
10 house shall be designated as co-chair of the commission; the commissioner of public health, or a
11 designee; a representative appointed by the Massachusetts Medical Society; a representative
12 appointed by the American Urological Society; a representative of the Society of Gynecological
13 Surgeons; a representative appointed by the Society of Thoracic Surgeons; a representative
14 appointed by the American Cancer Society; a representative appointed by the Massachusetts

15 Hospital Association; a representative of a community hospital with experience in robotic
16 surgery; and 3 persons to be appointed by the governor who have undergone robotic surgery.

17 The commission shall investigate and review the use of robotic surgery and develop a set
18 of best practices and principles for: (i) training protocols for each application of robotic surgery
19 currently being performed; (ii) certification processes for new applications of robotic surgery;
20 and (iii) guidelines for surgeon training and experience to perform robotic surgery. The
21 department of public health shall provide staff and other resources as the commission considers
22 appropriate. The special commission may report to the general court from time to time, the
23 results of its investigation and study and its recommendations, if any, together with drafts of
24 legislation necessary to carry those recommendations into effect, by filing the same with the
25 clerks of the senate and house of representatives not later than December 31, 2017.