

SENATE No. 4458

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

House of Representatives, July 5, 2016.

BILL #: S2296

BILL STATUS: Favorable with Amendment

DISSENTERS:

Boldyga, Nicholas A.

ACCOMPANIED BILLS:

None

For the committee,

BRIAN S. DEMPSEY

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

1 Resolved, that there shall be a special commission on local and regional public health to
2 assess the effectiveness and efficiency of municipal and regional public health systems and to
3 make recommendations regarding how to strengthen the delivery of public health services and
4 preventive measures.

5 The commission shall consist of the following persons, or their designees: the secretary
6 of administration and finance; the commissioner of public health, who shall serve as chair; the
7 commissioner of environmental protection; the commissioner of agricultural resources; 1
8 member of the house of representatives, who shall be appointed by the speaker of the house; 1
9 member of senate, who shall be appointed by the senate president; a representative of the
10 Massachusetts Municipal Association; a representative of the Massachusetts Taxpayers
11 Foundation; a representative of the Massachusetts Public Health Association; a representative of
12 the Massachusetts Health Officers Association; a representative of the Massachusetts
13 Association of Health Boards; a representative of the Massachusetts Environmental Health
14 Association; a representative of the Massachusetts Association of Public Health Nurses; a
15 representative of the Western Massachusetts Public Health Association; a representative of the
16 Massachusetts Public Health Regionalization Project working group at Boston University School
17 of Public Health; and 8 persons to be appointed by the governor, 1 of whom shall be a

18 representative of a research or academic institution with experience in public health data
19 collection and analysis; 1 of whom shall be a representative of a community health center; 1 of
20 whom shall be a representative of a hospital system; 1 of whom shall have expertise in public
21 health workforce development; 1 of whom shall be a public health representative of a
22 municipality with a population greater than 50,000; 1 of whom shall be a public health
23 representative of a municipality with a population between 5,000 and 50,000; and 1 of whom
24 shall be a public health representative of a regional service model that includes at least 1 town
25 with a population of less than 5,000.

26 The commission shall: (i) examine the capacity of local and regional public health
27 authorities in comparison to national public health standards and recommendations from the
28 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Public Health Accreditation Board, the National
29 Association of County and City Health Officials, the National Association of Local Boards of
30 Health, the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials and other relevant organizations;
31 (ii) assess the capacity of local public health authorities to carry out their statutory powers and
32 duties; (iii) evaluate existing municipal and state resources for local health and assess per capita
33 funding levels within municipalities for local health; (iv) evaluate the workforce credentials of
34 the current and future public health workforce as to educational standards, credentialing and
35 training; (v) assess the current capacity of the office of local and regional health within the
36 department of public health; (vi) evaluate existing regional collaboration and various models of
37 service delivery across the commonwealth, including stand-alone, shared service and fully
38 comprehensive regional districts; and (vii) determine the commonwealth's progress towards
39 achieving recommendations made by the Massachusetts regionalization advisory commission
40 pursuant to chapter 60 of the acts of 2009.

41 The commission may solicit public input through public hearings and testimony.