

SENATE No. 1294

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Jason M. Lewis

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 relative to strengthening the local and regional public health system.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Jason M. Lewis</i>	<i>Fifth Middlesex</i>	
<i>Jack Patrick Lewis</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/24/2019</i>
<i>Mike Connolly</i>	<i>26th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/24/2019</i>
<i>Joanne M. Comerford</i>	<i>Hampshire, Franklin and Worcester</i>	<i>1/28/2019</i>
<i>John J. Lawn, Jr.</i>	<i>10th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/28/2019</i>
<i>Mathew J. Muratore</i>	<i>1st Plymouth</i>	<i>1/28/2019</i>
<i>Michael O. Moore</i>	<i>Second Worcester</i>	<i>1/30/2019</i>
<i>Marcos A. Devers</i>	<i>16th Essex</i>	<i>1/30/2019</i>
<i>Rebecca L. Rausch</i>	<i>Norfolk, Bristol and Middlesex</i>	<i>1/30/2019</i>
<i>Kay Khan</i>	<i>11th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/30/2019</i>
<i>Viriato M. deMacedo</i>	<i>Plymouth and Barnstable</i>	<i>1/31/2019</i>
<i>David Henry Argosky LeBoeuf</i>	<i>17th Worcester</i>	<i>2/1/2019</i>
<i>Bruce E. Tarr</i>	<i>First Essex and Middlesex</i>	<i>2/1/2019</i>
<i>Diana DiZoglio</i>	<i>First Essex</i>	<i>2/1/2019</i>
<i>Patrick M. O'Connor</i>	<i>Plymouth and Norfolk</i>	<i>2/1/2019</i>
<i>Patricia D. Jehlen</i>	<i>Second Middlesex</i>	<i>2/1/2019</i>
<i>Walter F. Timilty</i>	<i>Norfolk, Bristol and Plymouth</i>	<i>2/1/2019</i>
<i>John Barrett, III</i>	<i>1st Berkshire</i>	<i>2/1/2019</i>

<i>John H. Rogers</i>	<i>12th Norfolk</i>	<i>2/1/2019</i>
<i>Julian Cyr</i>	<i>Cape and Islands</i>	<i>2/7/2019</i>
<i>Hannah Kane</i>	<i>11th Worcester</i>	<i>2/7/2019</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	<i>2/11/2019</i>
<i>Sal N. DiDomenico</i>	<i>Middlesex and Suffolk</i>	<i>2/11/2019</i>
<i>Paul R. Feeney</i>	<i>Bristol and Norfolk</i>	<i>2/14/2019</i>
<i>Brian M. Ashe</i>	<i>2nd Hampden</i>	<i>2/20/2019</i>
<i>Nick Collins</i>	<i>First Suffolk</i>	<i>2/28/2019</i>

SENATE No. 1294

By Mr. Lewis, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1294) of Jason M. Lewis, Jack Patrick Lewis, Mike Connolly, Joanne M. Comerford and other members of the General Court for legislation relative to strengthening the local and regional public health system. Public Health.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court
(2019-2020)**

An Act relative to strengthening the local and regional public health system.

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

1 Chapter 111 of the General Laws in hereby amended by inserting after Section 27C the
2 following section:-

3 Section 27D (a). The department shall establish a State Action for Public Health
4 Excellence program to encourage boards of health and regional health districts to adopt practices
5 that will improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the delivery of local public health services,
6 in alignment with the recommendations of the Special Commission on Local and Regional
7 Public Health, established in Chapter 3 of the Resolves of 2016. The program shall consist of the
8 activities described in this section.

9 (b). Subject to appropriation, the department shall provide the foundations of public
10 health course, or similar educational offering, no less than 4 times per year in diverse geographic

11 locations. The department shall provide such course free of charge to employees of boards of
12 health and regional health districts.

13 (c). (1) Subject to appropriation, the department shall establish a State Action for Public
14 Health Excellence Incentive Fund. Funds shall be made available on a competitive basis and
15 shall support boards of health or regional health districts to engage in regional, inter-municipal
16 collaboration to increase efficiency and effectiveness in delivery of public health services
17 mandated by Massachusetts law. Funding shall supplement and not replace existing state, local,
18 private, or federal funding to boards of health. The department may offer grantees an option to
19 renew at the end of each grant year.

20 (2) To be eligible to receive funds an applicant must i) submit an application in manner
21 determined by department, ii) describe how it will increase the efficiency and effectiveness in the
22 delivery of public health services across two or more municipalities, iii) certify that it meets
23 workforce standards as determined by the department, consistent with the recommendations of
24 the Special Commission on Local and Regional Public Health, iv) certify that it will submit
25 written compliance data to the department at the end of the grant year, in a manner to be
26 prescribed by the department, including but not limited to food inspections, sanitary code reports,
27 and communicable disease reporting, and v) provide a plan for long-term sustainability of the
28 proposed shared services program.

29 (3) Boards of health or regional health districts may apply for funding and technical
30 assistance to support i) planning and capacity building to organize regional collaboration in
31 alignment with recommendations of the Special Commission on Local and Regional Public

32 Health, or ii) implementation of regional collaboration in alignment with the recommendations
33 of the Special Commission on Local and Regional Public Health.

34 (4). The department shall adopt rules, regulations or guidelines for the administration and
35 enforcement of this section including, but not limited to, establishing applicant selection criteria,
36 funding priorities, application forms and procedures, grant distribution and other requirements,
37 provided, that not less than 33 per cent of the grants awarded shall go to cities and towns with a
38 median household income below the average of the commonwealth and with at least one
39 neighborhood designated as an environmental justice population as defined in Section 3 of
40 Chapter 21A of the general laws.

41 (d). The Special Commission on Local and Regional Public Health shall assess the
42 development of foundational public health services for Massachusetts. For the purposes of this
43 subsection, foundational public health services shall mean a set of minimum standards for
44 municipal public health, including substantive areas of expertise and essential skills and
45 capacities needed to protect the community's health and achieve equitable health outcomes. In
46 doing so, the commission shall consider recommendations from the National Association of
47 County and City Health Officers, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the Public Health
48 Leadership Forum, and other relevant experts. No later than 2 years following passage of this
49 section, the commission shall submit a report to the house committee on ways and means, the
50 senate committee on ways and means, and the joint committee on public health. The report shall
51 include an analysis of needs, opportunities, challenges, timeline, and cost analysis for the
52 implementation of foundational public health services.

53 (e). The department shall annually submit a report detailing the program's impact,
54 including but not limited to, the increase in the number of board of health employees that meet
55 workforce standards, the increase in boards of health that are compliant with data reporting
56 requirements, and the increase in the number of boards of health participating in regional
57 collaboration. The report shall be provided to the house committee on ways and means, the
58 senate committee on ways and means, and the joint committee on public health.

59 (f) For purposes of this section, the term "board of health" shall include any body politic
60 or political subdivision of the commonwealth that acts as a board of health, public health
61 commission or a health department for a municipality.