

SENATE No. 1295

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Cynthia S. Creem

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 the Forensic Sciences Advisory Board.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Cynthia S. Creem

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

First Middlesex and Norfolk

SENATE No. 1295

By Ms. Creem, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1295) of Cynthia S. Creem for legislation relative to the Forensic Sciences Advisory Board. Public Safety and Homeland Security.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. 1240 OF 2015-2016.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninetieth General Court
(2017-2018)**

An Act relative to the Forensic Sciences Advisory Board.

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 6 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2014 Official Edition, is hereby
2 amended by striking out section 184A and inserting the following new section:-

3 There shall be in the executive office of public safety and security a forensic sciences
4 advisory board, hereinafter called the board, which shall advise the secretary on all aspects of the
5 administration and delivery of criminal forensic sciences in the commonwealth. The board shall
6 consist of the undersecretary for forensic sciences, who shall also serve as chairperson of the
7 board, the attorney general, the colonel of the state police, the president of the Massachusetts
8 Chiefs of Police Association, the president of the Massachusetts Urban Chiefs Association, the
9 president of the Massachusetts District Attorney's Association, a district attorney designated by
10 the Massachusetts District Attorney's Association, the Secretary of the Executive Office of

11 Public Safety and Security and the Chief Counsel of the Committee for Public Counsel Services,
12 or their respective designees, three scientists, experienced in delivery, management or oversight
13 of scientific services, one of whom shall be a forensic scientist with practical experience in an
14 accredited crime lab, one of whom shall have a specialty in the natural or biological sciences and
15 one of whom shall have a specialty in the physical sciences, and two members of the bar with
16 experience in criminal practice and forensic science issues, one each to be appointed on
17 recommendation of the Massachusetts Bar Association and Boston Bar Association. The
18 members shall serve without compensation, except that, with respect to the three scientists,
19 reasonable travel expenses may be paid for the purpose of attending meetings. Each appointed
20 member shall serve for a term of three years or until a successor is appointed and qualified,
21 whichever is longer. The board shall meet no less than quarterly and as otherwise convened by
22 the undersecretary. The board shall coordinate its responsibilities with the medico-legal
23 investigation commission and shall not infringe upon the commission's authority as established
24 in section 184 of this chapter.

25 At the direction of the board, the undersecretary for forensic sciences shall advise the
26 board on the administration and delivery of forensic services in the commonwealth. The
27 undersecretary shall include in his report information as the board requests, including but not
28 limited to the volume of forensic services required for each county, including costs and the

29 length of time from submission for testing or procedures and return of results; the
30 capacity of the commonwealth's forensic services and funding requirements; the accreditation of
31 forensic facilities and training of personnel; facilities expansion, including location and funding
32 for a new state police crime lab; and partnerships with other public and private forensic services.

33 The undersecretary shall make recommendations for the allocation of resources and expansion of

- 34 services, and on an annual basis, submit budget recommendations to the secretary of public
- 35 safety and security and the board.