

SENATE No. 1349

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Bruce E. Tarr

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 establishing a fluoride task force.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Bruce E. Tarr

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

First Essex and Middlesex

SENATE No. 1349

By Mr. Tarr, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1349) of Bruce E. Tarr for legislation to establish a fluoride task force. Public Health.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act establishing a fluoride task force.

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: Notwithstanding any special or general law to the contrary, there shall be a
2 task force to comprehensively study both the benefits and costs of water supply fluoridation in
3 the Commonwealth. The task force shall consist of ten members: 3 of whom shall be designated
4 by the Governor who individually or collectively shall have expertise in health risk assessment,
5 cost benefit analysis and financial risk management, 1 of whom shall be designated and serve as
6 chair; 2 of whom shall be designated by the senate president, at least one of whom shall have
7 expertise in economics and health care costs, and at least one of whom is a credentialed public
8 water treatment expert with experience in fluoridation and one of whom shall have expertise in
9 wastewater impact on ecosystems and/or health risks from environmental exposures; 1 of whom
10 shall be designated by the senate minority leader, at least one of whom shall be a member of the
11 International Academy of Oral Medicine and Toxicology, and at least one of whom of whom
12 shall have expertise in endocrinology; 1 of whom shall be the secretary of health and human
13 services or their designee; 2 of whom shall be designated by the speaker of the house, one of

14 whom shall have expertise in endocrinology and one of whom shall represent environmental
15 justice communities; 1 of whom shall be designated by the house minority leader, one of whom
16 shall have expertise in the impact of environmental exposure during pregnancy and/or infancy
17 on health and one of whom of whom shall represent the constituency with medical
18 contraindications to fluoride consumption.

19 The task force shall: (i) provide an estimate of the economic value of dental care
20 reduction attributed to fluoridation; (ii) calculate the increased cost of health care for citizens of
21 the Commonwealth attributed to water fluoridation. Dental costs shall include the treatment of
22 dental fluorosis. Health costs shall include all relevant adverse effects from ingesting fluoride in
23 doses actually experienced by the population. Education costs shall include Special Education
24 service utilization and reduced workforce productivity due to increased illness and/or reduced
25 intelligence. The Task Force shall also calculate the impact of these costs on the annual budget
26 of the Commonwealth; (iii) consider the costs of avoidance of fluoridated water for pregnant
27 women, bottle-fed babies, thyroid patients, those with kidney disease, and those with
28 autoimmune or inflammatory diseases for whom fluoridation is medically contraindicated or ill-
29 advised; (iv) consider the costs of avoidance of fluoridated water by those who simply prefer not
30 to ingest the substance.

31 The task force shall file a report containing its findings and recommendations, including
32 legislation necessary to carry out its recommendations, with the clerks of the senate and the
33 house of representatives, and the chairs of the senate and house committees on ways and means
34 not later than July 1, 2019.