

SENATE No. 2018

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 establishing a special commission to identify opportunities to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of state agencies, programs, and services.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Jason M. Lewis

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Fifth Middlesex

SENATE No. 2018

By Mr. Lewis, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2018) of Jason M. Lewis for legislation to establish a special commission to identify opportunities to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of state agencies, programs, and services. State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. 2076 OF 2021-2022.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court
(2023-2024)**
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An Act establishing a special commission to identify opportunities to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of state agencies, programs, and services.

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. The General Laws are hereby amended by inserting after chapter 11 the
2 following chapter:-

3 Chapter 11A.

4 SECTION 1. (a) There shall be a special commission to study and make
5 recommendations concerning functional overlaps and other redundancies among state agencies
6 and opportunities to promote efficiency and accountability in state government. The commission
7 shall consist of the following members or their designees: (i) the house and senate chairs of the
8 joint committee on state administration and regulatory oversight, who shall serve as co-chairs;

9 (ii) the chair of the house committee on post audit and oversight; (iii) the chair of the senate
10 committee on post audit and oversight; (iv) the minority leader of the house; (v) the minority
11 leader of the senate; (vi) the state auditor; (vii) the assistant secretary of commonwealth
12 performance, accountability and transparency; (viii) the treasurer and receiver general; and (ix) 2
13 members that shall be appointed by the governor.

14 (b) The commission shall identify ways to eliminate overlaps and redundancies among
15 state agencies and make other recommendations as the commission considers appropriate with
16 the goal of reducing costs to the commonwealth and enhancing the quality and accessibility of
17 state services to the public. The commission shall consider merging or consolidating state
18 agencies and programs if a merger would reduce costs without adversely impacting the quality of
19 services. The commission shall also seek to identify opportunities to maximize revenues, such as
20 federal grants and matching funds.

21 (c) The commission may hold hearings and invite testimony from experts and the public.
22 The commission shall review and identify best practices learned from similar efforts in other
23 states, including the state of Connecticut's Commission on Enhancing Agency Outcomes which
24 submitted its final report on December 30, 2010.

25 (d) The agency head and staff of each state agency under consideration by the
26 commission shall ensure that any data, information or materials that the commission requests for
27 purposes of its review and deliberations are provided to the commission in a timely manner.

28 (e) Members of the commission shall be named and the commission shall begin its work
29 within 60 days of the effective date of this act. The commission shall report to the general court
30 the results of its investigation and study and recommendations, if any, together with drafts of

31 legislation necessary to carry its recommendations into effect by filing the same with the clerks
32 of the senate and the house of representatives within 1 year of the effective date of this act. The
33 clerks of the senate and house shall post the report on the website of the general court.