

**SENATE . . . . . No. 2118**

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**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 requiring anti-discrimination audits in the Commonwealth.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

*Bruce E. Tarr*

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

*First Essex and Middlesex*

**SENATE . . . . . No. 2118**

By Mr. Tarr, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2118) of Bruce E. Tarr for legislation to require anti-discrimination audits in the Commonwealth. State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE [Refile Branch], NO. OF 2019-2020.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Second General Court  
(2021-2022)**  
\_\_\_\_\_

An Act requiring anti-discrimination audits in the Commonwealth.

*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. Chapter 11 of the Massachusetts General Laws as appearing in the 2018  
2 Official Edition is hereby amended by inserting after section 12 the following new section: -

3 12A. -Equality Audits- The department of the state auditor shall include in the audits  
4 prescribed by section 12 of this chapter a component designed to detect and identify any and all  
5 rules, regulations, practices or methods of operation which have the effect of causing  
6 discriminatory impacts on individuals due to race, color, religious creed, national origin,  
7 ancestry, sex, sexual orientation, or disability and to similarly detect and identify measures which  
8 are effective in safeguarding the equal treatment of individuals impacted by the subjects of such  
9 audits. In carrying out the provisions of this section, the department shall collaborate with the

10 Massachusetts commission against discrimination as established by section fifty-six of chapter  
11 six and may retain specialized personnel.

12 Any such matters of discrimination so identified shall be referred immediately to the  
13 Governor, the Attorney General, the Inspector General, and the Massachusetts Commission  
14 against Discrimination for further consideration and action.

15 SECTION 2. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary there shall be an  
16 anti-discrimination audit oversight panel to consist of the Governor or a designee, the attorney  
17 general or a designee, the state auditor or a designee, the chair of the Massachusetts Commission  
18 against Discrimination or a designee, and the Inspector General of the Commonwealth or a  
19 designee.

20 Subject to appropriation, and with administrative support from the executive office of  
21 administration and finance, the anti-discrimination audit oversight panel shall develop and issue  
22 a request for proposal for an audit of the accounts, programs, activities, functions, hiring,  
23 retention and promotion of all departments, offices, commissions, institutions, and activities of  
24 the commonwealth including the general court, and offices held by constitutional officers, by a  
25 qualified independent auditing firm or organization as prescribed by chapter 30B.

26 The audit shall be completed within 18 months of the contract being awarded. The  
27 contracted auditor in conducting said audit, shall conduct not less than 3 public hearings in  
28 different geographic regions of the commonwealth. The contracted auditor may require the  
29 production of books, documents, vouchers, and other records within the scope of the audit, and  
30 the superior court shall have jurisdiction to enforce the production of records that the contracted  
31 auditor requires to be produced. The audit shall detect and identify any and all rules, regulations,

32 practices or methods of operation which have the effect of causing discriminatory impacts on  
33 individuals due to race, color, religious creed, national origin, ancestry, sex, sexual orientation,  
34 or disability and to similarly detect and identify measures which are effective in safeguarding the  
35 equal treatment of individuals impacted by the subjects of such audits. Said audit shall be done in  
36 accordance with chapter 268A of the general laws.

37 Said auditor shall submit interim reports every 6 months to the anti-discrimination audit  
38 oversight panel, and the clerks of the house and senate, and whom shall post them on the general  
39 court website in a conspicuous place for public viewing and inspection, and the anti-  
40 discrimination panel shall post the reports on the website of the commonwealth in a conspicuous  
41 place for public viewing and inspection.

42 Said auditor shall submit the final report along with any recommendations to the anti-  
43 discrimination audit oversight panel, and the clerks of the house and senate and whom shall post  
44 the final report on the general court website in a conspicuous place for public viewing and  
45 inspection, and the anti-discrimination panel shall post the final report on the website of the  
46 commonwealth final report in a conspicuous place for public viewing and inspection.

47 SECTION 3. Section 1 of this act shall go into effect within 1 year after the completion  
48 of the audit prescribed in section 2 of this act.