

SENATE No. 799

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Stephen J. Buoniconti

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 passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act establishing a special commission to study physician recruitment and workforce development in Massachusetts.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Stephen J. Buoniconti

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Hampden

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. S01213 OF 2007-2008.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A SPECIAL COMMISSION TO STUDY PHYSICIAN RECRUITMENT AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT IN MASSACHUSETTS.

*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. There shall be a special commission to investigate, study and evaluate methods to
2 increase the recruitment and retention of physicians in the Commonwealth. The commission shall
3 address, but not be limited to, the definition and designation of understaffed medical specialties, health
4 professional shortage areas and other medically underserved areas; identification of existing laws,
5 regulations, policies, contracting and reimbursement practices and which may create disincentives to
6 physician recruitment and retention; and, the establishment of a loan forgiveness program, tax credits or
7 other financial incentives for physicians to practice in the Commonwealth.

8 The special commission shall consist of the secretary of the executive office of economic development or
9 his designee who shall serve as chairman; the commissioner of the department of public health or his
10 designee; the executive director of the board of registration in medicine or his designee; the House and
11 Senate chairs of the health care financing committee; and one representative named by each of the
12 following: the Massachusetts Medical Society; the Massachusetts Hospital Association; the
13 Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers; the Massachusetts Association of Health Plans;

14 Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts; the Massachusetts Conference of Teaching Hospitals; a
15 physician president of a medical staff of a community hospital, a primary care physician; and a consumer
16 representative named by the commission's chairman. The special commission may consult with other
17 government agencies, both federal and state, as well as members of the health care community and the
18 general public.

19 The special commission shall submit a report, including any draft recommendations or legislation to the
20 House and Senate within 12 months of the day that this act is passed into law.