

HOUSE No. 1717

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Tom Sannicandro

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:

Resolve to establish a commission to evaluate health services and environmental conditions at all DOC and county correctional facilities.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Tom Sannicandro

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

7th Middlesex

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 1717 OF 2007-2008.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

RESOLVE TO ESTABLISH A COMMISSION TO EVALUATE HEALTH SERVICES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS AT ALL DOC AND COUNTY CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 *Resolved,*

2

3 Resolved, That, notwithstanding the provisions of any general or special law to the contrary, there is hereby
4 established a Commission to investigate, report on and recommend changes in, the health services and
5 environmental conditions at all Department of Correction and County correctional facilities. Said commission shall
6 collect and report on data on the health status, health services and environmental conditions available to residents
7 including those awaiting trial, in temporary custody or part of the general population. Said commission shall
8 evaluate health services in comparison with community standards for health care and environmental quality, prompt
9 access to care and appropriate treatment and staffing including psychological, psychiatric, surgical and other
10 interventions. The commission shall develop strategic, legislative and financial recommendations to address any
11 differences in health care standards from those expected of community hospitals and clinics licensed by the
12 Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Division of Health Care Quality.

13 The commission shall be composed of the House and Senate Chairs of the Joint Committee on Public Safety
14 who shall serve as co-chairs of the commission; the House and Senate Chairs of the Committee on Health Care; the
15 Secretary of Public Safety or his designee; the Commissioner of Corrections or her designee; the Commissioner of
16 Public Health or her designee; the Commissioner of Mental Health or her designee; one representative from each of
17 the following organizations: Massachusetts College of Emergency Room Physicians; Massachusetts Medical
18 Society; Massachusetts Public Health Association; Massachusetts Correctional Legal Services; Governor's
19 Commission on Corrections Reform.

20 Said commission shall file a report of its study, including its recommendations and drafts of legislation
21 with the clerks of the Senate and House of Representatives on or before December 31, 2009. The sum of \$200,000
22 shall be separately appropriated for the purposes of this act.