

HOUSE No. 1915

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Kate Hogan

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 relative to conducting fetal and infant mortality review.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Kate Hogan</i>	<i>3rd Middlesex</i>
<i>Ann-Margaret Ferrante</i>	<i>5th Essex</i>
<i>Michael O. Moore</i>	<i>Second Worcester</i>
<i>Rebecca L. Rausch</i>	<i>Norfolk, Bristol and Middlesex</i>
<i>James K. Hawkins</i>	<i>2nd Bristol</i>

HOUSE No. 1915

By Ms. Hogan of Stow, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1915) of Kate Hogan and others for legislation to authorize certain local health agencies to conduct in-depth fetal infant mortality reviews. Public Health.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to conducting fetal and infant mortality review.

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 38 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2016 Official Edition,
2 is hereby amended by inserting after section 2A the following section: -

3 Section 2B. As used in this section, the term below shall have the following meaning: -

4 “Authorized local health agency”, shall mean a health board, department, or other
5 governmental entity that is authorized by the department of public health to receive timely data
6 relative to fetal and infant deaths for assessing, planning, improving and monitoring the service
7 systems and community resources that support child and maternal health.

8 The department of public health shall establish a process for designating authorized local
9 health agencies. This process may include reasonable criteria regarding the level of expertise,
10 workforce capacity, or organizational capacity. Authorized local health agencies shall be
11 authorized to conduct in-depth fetal infant mortality review of each individual infant and fetal

12 death occurring within their jurisdiction, in order to identify local factors associated with fetal
13 and infant deaths and inform public health policy programs.

14 For each case of fetal or infant death to be reviewed, authorized local health agencies are
15 hereby authorized to collect relevant data from a variety of sources, which may include physician
16 and hospital records in addition to relevant community program records. Authorized local health
17 agencies are authorized to collect, and the department is authorized to provide, timely access to
18 vital records and other data reasonably necessary for fetal and infant mortality review.

19 The department may issue additional guidance through policy or regulation, consistent
20 with this section, regarding the process for conducting fetal infant mortality reviews by
21 authorized local health agencies, which may include guidance from the National Fetal and Infant
22 Mortality Review Program.