

HOUSE No. 1938

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Tricia Farley-Bouvier

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 creating a commission to study concussions that occur as a result of varsity sports in public and private high schools.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Tricia Farley-Bouvier</i>	<i>3rd Berkshire</i>
<i>Brian M. Ashe</i>	<i>2nd Hampden</i>
<i>Jeffrey N. Roy</i>	<i>10th Norfolk</i>
<i>Brian R. Mannal</i>	<i>2nd Barnstable</i>

HOUSE No. 1938

By Ms. Farley-Bouvier of Pittsfield, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1938) of Tricia Farley-Bouvier and others for an investigation by a special commission (including members of the General Court) of concussions that occur as a result of varsity sports in public and private high schools. Public Health.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court
(2015-2016)**

An Act creating a commission to study concussions that occur as a result of varsity sports in public and private high schools.

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

1 There shall be a special commission to study concussions that occur as a result of varsity
2 sports in public and private high schools.

3 The commission, of no more than 15 members, shall consist of: the Commissioner of
4 Public Health or her designee, who shall serve as chair; 2 members who will be medical
5 professionals who specialize in head injuries; the executive director of the Brain Injury
6 Association of MA; 1 member appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives; 1
7 member appointed by the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives; 1 member appointed
8 by the President of the Senate; and 1 member appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate;
9 the Executive Director of the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association or her designee;
10 a professional whose primary responsibility is that of Athletic Director at a MA high school; a
11 member who represents private high schools; a parent of a current high school student; coaches

12 and other interested parties. While appointing this commission consideration will be given to
13 race, gender and geographic diversity.

14 The purpose of the commission is to analyze current data on the prevalence of sports
15 related concussions and their primary causes; rules associated with each sport and current safety
16 policies. The commission will then make recommendations for the reduction of occurrences of
17 concussions and procedures for identifying and responding to concussions that do occur,
18 including any necessary legislative changes.

19 The commission will submit their findings to the Joint Committee on Public Health no
20 later than February 1, 2016 with an interim report filed by December 1, 2015.