

HOUSE No. 2010

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Orlando Ramos

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 to establish a commission to study substance use disorder and treatment disparities in the minority community.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Orlando Ramos</i>	<i>9th Hampden</i>	<i>1/18/2023</i>

HOUSE No. 2010

By Representative Ramos of Springfield, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2010) of Orlando Ramos for legislation to establish a commission to study substance use disorder and treatment disparities in minority communities. Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 2126 OF 2021-2022.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court
(2023-2024)**

An Act to establish a commission to study substance use disorder and treatment disparities in the minority community.

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 XX. There shall be a commission established to study the disproportionate
2 impact substance use disorders and overdoses have on the minority community of the
3 commonwealth and corresponding disparities in substance use disorder treatment access. The
4 commission shall: 1) review current data and trends regarding substance use and overdose rates,
5 disparities in treatment access, and corresponding causes in the minority community; 2) evaluate
6 the effectiveness of current treatment interventions within minority communities; 3) identify
7 barriers to accessing treatment, including lack of necessary resources, education, access and
8 training to medical needs, and the need for culturally appropriate care and intervention; and 4)
9 recommend evidence-based strategies to reduce overdose deaths and to improve access,
10 treatment, and education in the minority community.

11 The commission shall consist of the following members or a designee: the secretary of
12 health and human services, who shall serve as chair; the commissioner of the department of
13 public health; a representative of the Bureau of Substance Addiction Services; and 8 members
14 appointed by the governor, 2 of whom shall be representatives from advocacy organizations with
15 expertise in substance use disorders and treatment, 2 of whom shall be representatives from
16 advocacy organizations with expertise in racial disparities in health care, 1 of whom shall be a
17 representative of community health centers located in a culturally diverse location, 1 of whom
18 shall be a provider primarily serving the minority community, 1 of whom shall be an expert in
19 substance use disorder treatment with a focus on the minority community, and 3 of whom shall
20 be representatives of geographically diverse organizations that promote the well-being of
21 culturally diverse populations through culturally competent behavioral health.

22 The commission shall file its report, including any recommendations, with the clerks of
23 the house of representatives and senate, the joint committee on mental health, substance use and
24 recovery and the house and senate committees on ways and means annually not later than
25 January 1 of each year.”