

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 2128**

---

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

**Alice Hanlon Peisch**

---

*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 Creating a Special Task Force to Make an Investigation and Study on Issues Related to the Practice of Defensive Medicine.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Alice Hanlon Peisch	14th Norfolk
Cynthia Stone Creem	

# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

## AN ACT CREATING A SPECIAL TASK FORCE TO MAKE AN INVESTIGATION AND STUDY ON ISSUES RELATED TO THE PRACTICE OF DEFENSIVE MEDICINE.

*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. Notwithstanding the provisions of any general or special law to the contrary, there is hereby  
2 established a special task force to study issues relating to the practice of defensive medicine in the  
3 Commonwealth. The task force shall investigate and report on the practice of defensive medicine in the  
4 Commonwealth, including costs to the state and insurers as a result of this practice, negative  
5 consequences arising out of the practice of defensive medicine and the impact of defensive medicine on  
6 patient care. The task force shall also develop and recommend strategies to reduce or eliminate the  
7 impact of defensive medicine.

8 The task force shall be comprised of 15 members, including the House and Senate Chairs of the Joint  
9 Committee on Health Care, who shall serve as co-chairs of the task force; the House and Senate Chairs of  
10 the Joint Committee on Insurance; the House and Senate Chairs of the Joint Committee on Health Care  
11 Finance; a Senate member recommended by the Senate President; a Senate member of the minority party  
12 recommended by the minority leader of the Senate; a House member recommended by the Speaker of the  
13 House; a House member of the minority party recommended by the minority leader of the House; the  
14 Commissioner of the Department of Public Health or his designee; the dean of the University of  
15 Massachusetts Medical School; and one representative from each of the following organizations: the

16 Massachusetts Hospital Association; the Massachusetts Medical Society and the Massachusetts  
17 Association of Health Plans. Said task force shall file a report of its study, including its recommendations  
18 and drafts of any legislation, if necessary, with the clerks of the Senate and House of Representatives  
19 within one year of the effective date of this act.