

HOUSE No. 2812

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Byron Rushing

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 establishing a special secretary to reduce and prevent homelessness and increase economic mobility.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Byron Rushing</i>	<i>9th Suffolk</i>
<i>David M. Rogers</i>	<i>24th Middlesex</i>
<i>Frank A. Moran</i>	<i>17th Essex</i>
<i>Denise Provost</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>
<i>Benjamin Swan</i>	<i>11th Hampden</i>
<i>Michelle M. DuBois</i>	<i>10th Plymouth</i>
<i>Mary S. Keefe</i>	<i>15th Worcester</i>
<i>Ruth B. Balsler</i>	<i>12th Middlesex</i>
<i>Sean Garballey</i>	<i>23rd Middlesex</i>
<i>Jeffrey N. Roy</i>	<i>10th Norfolk</i>
<i>Christine P. Barber</i>	<i>34th Middlesex</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>
<i>Tricia Farley-Bouvier</i>	<i>3rd Berkshire</i>
<i>Chris Walsh</i>	<i>6th Middlesex</i>
<i>Gloria L. Fox</i>	<i>7th Suffolk</i>
<i>Kay Khan</i>	<i>11th Middlesex</i>

HOUSE No. 2812

By Mr. Rushing of Boston, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2812) of Byron Rushing and others relative to the establishment of a secretary to reduce and prevent homelessness. State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An act establishing a special secretary to reduce and prevent homelessness and increase economic mobility.

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 2 of chapter 6A of the General Laws, is hereby amended by adding after the
2 words “transportation and public works” the following words:- “interagency coordination to
3 reduce and prevent homelessness.”

4 Said chapter 6A is hereby further amended by adding the following section:- Section 105.

5 (a) There shall be an interagency office to coordinate programs to reduce and prevent
6 homelessness. The interagency office shall be run by a Special Secretary pursuant to Section 5 of
7 Chapter 6.

8 (b) The Special Secretary shall submit a report to the House and Senate within twelve
9 months of enactment including: (1) programs administered through all state agencies that either
10 serve extremely low income families or can be used to address homelessness and prevent
11 homelessness, (2) programs that can be supplemented with federal funding, (3) differences and

12 gaps in program eligibility between identified programs and strategies for aligning eligibility (4)
13 a plan for coordination across agencies to align program eligibility and access for households
14 with extremely low incomes, recommendations for the budget oversight necessary for the
15 Special Secretary to implement plan and necessary legislative and regulatory changes required to
16 implement plan.

17 (c) The Special Secretary shall create cross-department teams of senior, managerial, and
18 front-line government staff of each department to coordinate across agency lines to solve
19 problems and deploy resources. Agencies shall include, but not be limited to: Department of
20 Housing and Community Development; Executive Office Housing and Economic Development;
21 Executive office of Health and Human Services; Department of Transitional Assistance;
22 Department of Children and Families, Department of Mental Health; Department of Public
23 Health; Department of Developmental Disabilities; Department of Early Education and Care;
24 Department of Elementary and Secondary Education; Department of Corrections; and the
25 Department of Veterans Services; Department of Elder Affairs.

26 (d) The Special Secretary shall assemble advisory committees who shall represent diverse
27 perspectives on housing instability and homelessness, including families and individuals who
28 have experienced homelessness and housing instability, homelessness coordinators within public
29 school systems, early education and care systems, housing providers, medical and public health
30 professionals, employment service providers, and other service providers. The advisory
31 committee shall help identify current and emerging issues facing families with very low incomes,
32 review drafts of the report and plan developed by the Special Secretary, and provide
33 recommendations.

- 34 (e) The Special Secretary for Interagency Coordination on Reducing and Preventing
35 Homelessness position shall sunset on January 1, 2019.