

HOUSE No. 291

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Jay D. Livingstone

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 authorizing the establishment of a commission to evaluate student health.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Jay D. Livingstone

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

8th Suffolk

HOUSE No. 291

By Mr. Livingstone of Boston, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 291) of Jay D. Livingstone for an investigation by a special commission (including members of the General Court) relative to evaluating student health in schools. Education.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 430 OF 2015-2016.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninetieth General Court
(2017-2018)**

An Act authorizing the establishment of a commission to evaluate student health.

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: As used in this section the following words shall, unless the context clearly
2 requires otherwise, have the following meaning:

3 School means any public or private school, including district, regional, charter, and
4 vocational schools, that offers education to students at any grade between pre-kindergarten and
5 twelfth grade, inclusive.

6 School Nurse means a professional registered nurse licensed or eligible for Department of
7 Elementary and licensure as a “school nurse”.

8 Secondary Education School-based Health Center means a satellite clinic of a hospital or
9 community health center which offers primary care to students enrolled within the center and
10 may bill for services.

11 SECTION 2: There is hereby established a Commission of School Nursing to consist of
12 23 members. Said commission shall be comprised of three Senators appointed by the Senate
13 President and three Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;
14 Commissioner of Massachusetts Department of Mental Health and two of his or her designees;
15 Commissioner of Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and two of
16 his or her designees; the Commissioner of the Department of Public Health and two of his or her
17 designees; and three members appointed by the Massachusetts School Nurse Organization; and
18 the Governor shall appoint one member from each of the following organizations: Massachusetts
19 Association of School Superintendents, Massachusetts Chapter of the American Academy of
20 Pediatrics, Massachusetts Municipal Association, Massachusetts Nurses' Association, and a
21 school parent organization.

22 SECTION 3: The Commission shall recommend standards for staffing of School Nurses
23 at Schools. The Commission shall determine how many School Nurses are retained by Schools
24 in Massachusetts and if there is a sufficient number of School Nurses for all Schools in
25 Massachusetts. The Commission shall also report on any issues created by School retaining an
26 insufficient number of School Nurses. The Commission shall evaluate the use of School-based
27 Health Centers on the health of students. The Commission shall make recommendations
28 regarding improving student health and make recommendations regarding potential funding
29 sources in addition to Municipal school budgets.

30 SECTION 4: The Commission shall submit a report to the legislature no later than
31 December 1, 2016 describing recommendations to ensure the sustainability of the school nursing
32 staffing and infrastructure, including Department of Public Health (in collaboration with DESE)
33 oversight and monitoring.