

HOUSE No. 3181

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Hannah Kane

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 relative to marijuana research, data collection, and best practices.

PETITION OF:

| NAME: | DISTRICT/ADDRESS: |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <i>Hannah Kane</i> | <i>11th Worcester</i> |
| <i>Jennifer E. Benson</i> | <i>37th Middlesex</i> |
| <i>Thomas J. Calter</i> | <i>12th Plymouth</i> |
| <i>James M. Cantwell</i> | <i>4th Plymouth</i> |
| <i>Claire D. Cronin</i> | <i>11th Plymouth</i> |
| <i>Josh S. Cutler</i> | <i>6th Plymouth</i> |
| <i>Michael S. Day</i> | <i>31st Middlesex</i> |
| <i>David F. DeCoste</i> | <i>5th Plymouth</i> |
| <i>Shawn Dooley</i> | <i>9th Norfolk</i> |
| <i>Carolyn C. Dykema</i> | <i>8th Middlesex</i> |
| <i>Kimberly N. Ferguson</i> | <i>1st Worcester</i> |
| <i>Paul K. Frost</i> | <i>7th Worcester</i> |
| <i>Denise C. Garlick</i> | <i>13th Norfolk</i> |
| <i>Danielle W. Gregoire</i> | <i>4th Middlesex</i> |
| <i>Sheila C. Harrington</i> | <i>1st Middlesex</i> |
| <i>Bradley H. Jones, Jr.</i> | <i>20th Middlesex</i> |
| <i>James J. Lyons, Jr.</i> | <i>18th Essex</i> |
| <i>Michael O. Moore</i> | <i>Second Worcester</i> |

| | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Mathew Muratore</i> | <i>1st Plymouth</i> |
| <i>David M. Nangle</i> | <i>17th Middlesex</i> |
| <i>Denise Provost</i> | <i>27th Middlesex</i> |
| <i>John H. Rogers</i> | <i>12th Norfolk</i> |
| <i>Thomas M. Stanley</i> | <i>9th Middlesex</i> |
| <i>John C. Velis</i> | <i>4th Hampden</i> |

HOUSE No. 3181

By Mrs. Kane of Shrewsbury, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3181) of Hannah Kane and others relative to the social and economic effects of marijuana in the Commonwealth . Marijuana Policy.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to marijuana research, data collection, and best practices.

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. Chapter 94G of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
2 section 14 the following new section:-

3 Section 15. (a) The commission shall develop an annual research agenda in order to
4 understand the social and economic effects of marijuana in the commonwealth and to obtain
5 scientific information relative to the biology, neuroscience, psychology, sociology, epidemiology
6 and etiology of marijuana use and marijuana abuse. The secretary of health and human services,
7 with the advice and consent of the commission, may expend funds from the Marijuana
8 Regulation Fund established in section 14 of this chapter to implement the objectives of the
9 research agenda which shall include, but not be limited to:

10 (1) comprehensive legal and factual studies of the social and economic impacts of
11 marijuana in the commonwealth on: (a) state and local governments; and (b) communities and
12 social institutions generally, including individuals, families and businesses within such

13 communities and institutions; provided, however, that the matters to be examined in such studies
14 shall include, but not be limited to:

15 (i) a review of existing federal, state and local policies and practices with respect to the
16 legalization or prohibition of marijuana, including a review of the costs of such policies and
17 practices;

18 (ii) an assessment of the relationship between marijuana and the criminal justice system;

19 (iii) an assessment of any marijuana abuse, including its impact on individuals, families,
20 businesses, social institutions and the economy;

21 (iv) an assessment of the health benefits of medical marijuana use.

22 (v) an assessment of the impact of marijuana use on individuals, families, businesses,
23 social institutions and the economy generally, including the role of advertising in promoting
24 marijuana and the impact of marijuana on depressed economic areas;

25 (vi) an assessment of the extent to which similar state marijuana legalization laws have
26 provided revenues to other state and local governments;

27 (vii) an assessment of the costs of added infrastructure, police force, health care
28 utilization and dependency on public assistance;

29 (viii) an assessment of the impact of the development and operation of the marijuana
30 establishments on small businesses in host municipalities and surrounding municipalities,
31 including a review of any economic harm experienced and potential solutions to mitigate
32 associated economic harm; and

33 (2) individual studies conducted by academic institutions and individual researchers in
34 the commonwealth to study topics which shall include, but not be limited to: (i) the short and
35 long term effects of marijuana on the human brain; (ii) the sociology and psychology of
36 marijuana use and marketing; and (iii) the epidemiology and etiology of marijuana use and
37 marijuana abuse in the general population; provided, however, that when contracting with
38 researchers to study such issues, the commission shall encourage the collaboration among
39 researchers in the commonwealth and other states and jurisdictions. Any research paid for with
40 public funds shall be made available for the public.

41 The commission shall annually make scientifically-based recommendations which reflect
42 the results of this research to the house and senate committees on ways and means, the joint
43 committee on mental health and substance abuse, the joint committee on public health and the
44 joint committee on marijuana. The commission shall consider any such recommendations,
45 research and findings in all decisions related to enhancing responsible marijuana use and
46 mitigating marijuana abuse.

47 (b) The commission and the secretary of health and human services shall incorporate the
48 findings from the baseline study of marijuana use in the commonwealth in chapter 351 of the
49 acts of 2016.