

HOUSE No. 3200

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

John C. Velis

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 commission to study the impact of marijuana legalization on public safety and the well-being of children in the Commonwealth.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

John C. Velis

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

4th Hampden

HOUSE No. 3200

By Mr. Velis of Westfield, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3200) of John C. Velis for an investigation by a special commission (including members of the General Court) of the codes, statutes and criminal laws pertaining to the use of marijuana . Marijuana Policy.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act establishing a commission to study the impact of marijuana legalization on public safety and the well-being of children in the Commonwealth.

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. The Massachusetts House of Representatives shall, with the assistance of
2 the Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety, initiate a committee to study and
3 recommend the revision of the codes, statutes, and criminal laws that pertain to the use of
4 marijuana here in the Commonwealth.

5 (a) It shall begin such a study by creating a commission studying the effects of
6 marijuana legalization on public safety and the well-being of children.

7 (i) Said Commission shall have five members of the Massachusetts House of
8 Representatives;

9 (ii) Said commission shall have three justices, retired, who have presided in criminal
10 proceedings in either the District, Superior, or Appeals Court here in the Commonwealth;

11 (iii) Said Commission shall have of a representative of the Massachusetts District
12 Attorney's Association;

13 (iv) Said Commission shall have a representative from the Massachusetts Bar
14 Association;

15 (v) Said Commission shall have a representative from the National Cannabis Bar
16 Association who has been admitted to the Massachusetts Bar;

17 (vi) Said Commission shall have a representative of the Executive Office of Public
18 Safety, and

19 (vii) Said Commission shall also have the appointment of two professors of criminal
20 law, who teach at any of the accredited law schools here in the Commonwealth.

21 (b) The purpose of said commission is to provide the Massachusetts General Court a
22 report as to how to proceed in the revision of criminal laws and penalties associated with the
23 legalization of Marijuana here in the Commonwealth.

24 (c) The commission will specifically study

25 (i) The effects of marijuana on operating a motor vehicle or heavy machinery;

26 (ii) The effects of accidentally ingesting, inhaling or otherwise being exposed to
27 marijuana on children aged 12 years and younger; and

28 (iii) Any other effects of marijuana on public safety and the well-being of children in
29 the Commonwealth.

30 (d) Said commission shall file their report with the House Clerk, as well as to the
31 House Chairman of the Judiciary Committee, on any findings and recommendations to the
32 implementation and revision of criminal laws pertaining to the use of Marijuana here in the
33 Commonwealth. Furthermore, the commission shall submit any necessary draft of legislation to
34 carry out the recommendations into effect by filing the same with the House Clerk by December
35 31st, 2017.