

HOUSE No. 3321

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Garrett J. Bradley

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:

An Act permanently establishing a state autism commission.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Garrett J. Bradley</i>	<i>3rd Plymouth</i>
<i>Kay Khan</i>	<i>11th Middlesex</i>
<i>Thomas J. Calter</i>	<i>12th Plymouth</i>

HOUSE No. 3321

By Mr. Bradley of Hingham, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3321) of Garrett J. Bradley, Kay Khan and Thomas J. Calter relative to permanently establishing a state autism commission. State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

An Act permanently establishing a state autism commission.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 Chapter 6 of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the following section:-

2 Section 216 (a) There shall be within the executive office of health and human services a
3 special commission on autism to consist of 34 members, 2 of whom shall be members of the
4 Senate, 1 of whom shall be appointed by the minority leader; 2 members of the house of
5 representatives, 1 of whom shall be appointed by the minority leader; the secretary of health and
6 human services or a designee; the commissioner of developmental services or a designee; the
7 commissioner of mental health or a designee; the secretary of education or a designee; the
8 commissioner of education or a designee; the director of housing and community development or
9 a designee; the secretary of labor and workforce development or a designee; the commissioner of
10 the Massachusetts rehabilitation commission or a designee; the commissioner of early education
11 and care or a designee; the commissioner of elementary and secondary education or a designee;
12 the commissioner of higher education or a designee; the secretary of elder affairs or a designee;
13 the commissioner of children and families or a designee; the commissioner of public health or a
14 designee; the director of the office of Medicaid or a designee; 1 person appointed by the
15 secretary of education; and 14 persons to be appointed by the governor, 10 of whom shall be
16 representatives of a statewide autism group, 2 of whom shall be representatives of the Autism
17 Family and Advocates of Massachusetts. Members shall be persons with demonstrated interest,
18 experience and expertise in autism. All legislators and agency members shall serve as non-voting
19 members of the commission. Citizen members shall be special state employees subject to
20 sections 18 to 25, inclusive, of chapter 30A.

21 (b) The commission shall be responsible for monitoring the implementation of the
22 recommendations in the March 2013 report by the governor’s special commission relative to
23 autism. The commission shall monitor the effectiveness of the autism commission’s

24 recommendations and update recommendations to reflect current research and the commission's
25 discussions when applicable.

26 (c) There shall be an administrator of the commission. The administrator shall be an
27 employee of the executive office of health and human services. The administrator shall have
28 knowledge of the autism service system and agencies delivering these services, legislative
29 experience and a personal connection to autism.

30 (d) The executive office of health and human services shall provide the commission with
31 such clerical and other assistance as the commission may deem necessary.

32 (e) The commission shall adopt internal procedures appropriate for the effective
33 performance of its duties.