

HOUSE No. 3455

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:

Resolve providing for an investigation and study by a special commission relative to aphasia.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Garrett J. Bradley</i>	<i>3rd Plymouth</i>
<i>Brian M. Ashe</i>	<i>2nd Hampden</i>
<i>Thomas J. Calter</i>	<i>12th Plymouth</i>
<i>James M. Cantwell</i>	<i>4th Plymouth</i>
<i>Paul J. Donato</i>	<i>35th Middlesex</i>
<i>Kimberly N. Ferguson</i>	<i>1st Worcester</i>
<i>Colleen M. Garry</i>	<i>36th Middlesex</i>
<i>James R. Miceli</i>	<i>19th Middlesex</i>
<i>Elizabeth A. Poirier</i>	<i>14th Bristol</i>
<i>Kathi-Anne Reinstein</i>	<i>16th Suffolk</i>
<i>John W. Scibak</i>	<i>2nd Hampshire</i>
<i>Kay Khan</i>	<i>11th Middlesex</i>

HOUSE No. 3455

By Mr. Bradley of Hingham, a petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Garrett J. Bradley and others providing for an investigation and study by a special commission (including members of the General Court) relative to aphasia. Public Health.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Resolve providing for an investigation and study by a special commission relative to aphasia.

1 Resolved, Resolved, that a special commission, to consist of 13 members as follows: the
2 secretary of the executive office of health and human services, or a designee; the commissioner
3 of public health, or a designee; the commissioner of insurance, or a designee; and 10 members
4 who shall be appointed as follows: 3 members appointed by the senate president, 1 of whom
5 shall be the senate chairman of the joint committee on public health, or a designee, 1 of whom
6 shall be a person with aphasia and 1 of whom provides services to persons with aphasia; 3
7 members appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives, 1 of whom shall be the house
8 chairman of the joint committee on public health, or a designee, 1 of whom shall be a person
9 with aphasia and 1 of whom provides services to persons with aphasia; and 4 members appointed
10 by the governor, 1 of whom shall be a person with aphasia, 1 of whom provides services to
11 persons with aphasia, and 2 members of the public with demonstrated expertise in issues relating
12 to the work of the commission, is hereby established for the purpose of making an investigation
13 and study to:

14 (1) establish a mechanism in order to ascertain the prevalence of aphasia in
15 Massachusetts, and the unmet needs of persons with aphasia and those of their families;

16 (2) study model aphasia support programs, such as the Aphasia Center at Massachusetts
17 General Hospital’s Institute of Health Professions Department of Communication Sciences and
18 Disorders and the Aphasia Resource Center at Boston University College of Health &
19 Rehabilitation Sciences: Sargent College; and

20 (3) provide recommendations for additional legislation, support programs and resources
21 necessary to meet the unmet needs of persons with aphasia and their families.

22 Vacancies in the membership of the commission shall be filled in the same manner
23 provided for the original appointments.

24 The commission shall organize within 120 days following the appointment of a majority
25 of its members and shall select a chairperson and vice-chairperson from among the members.
26 The chairperson shall appoint a secretary who need not be a member of the commission.

27 The public members shall serve without compensation, but shall be reimbursed for
28 necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties as provided by section 2A of
29 chapter 4 of the General Laws.

30 The commission shall be entitled to call to its assistance and avail itself of the services of
31 the employees of any state, county or municipal department, board, bureau, commission or
32 agency as it may require and as may be available to it for its purposes.

33 The executive office of health and human services shall provide staff support to the
34 commission.

35 The commission shall report to the general court the results of its investigation and study
36 and its recommendations, if any, together with drafts of legislation necessary to carry its
37 recommendations into effect, by filing the same with the clerk of the senate and the clerk of the
38 house of representatives on or before December 31, 2014.