

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 348**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

*Theodore C. Speliotis*

*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 resolve:

Resolve creating a special commission to protect residents from telephone and electronic fraud.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Theodore C. Speliotis</i>	<i>13th Essex</i>
<i>Christine P. Barber</i>	<i>34th Middlesex</i>
<i>Jennifer E. Benson</i>	<i>37th Middlesex</i>
<i>Mindy Domb</i>	<i>3rd Hampshire</i>
<i>David Henry Argosky LeBoeuf</i>	<i>17th Worcester</i>
<i>Jack Patrick Lewis</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 348**

By Mr. Speliotis of Danvers, a petition (accompanied by resolve, House, No. 348) of Theodore C. Speliotis and others for an investigation by a special commission (including members of the General Court) for the purpose of studying the issue of telephone and internet scams targeting elderly residents of the Commonwealth. Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure.

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court  
(2019-2020)**

Resolve creating a special commission to protect residents from telephone and electronic fraud.

1           **Resolved**, There shall be a special commission consisting of 13 members for the purpose  
2 of studying the issue of telephone and internet scams targeting elderly residents of the  
3 Commonwealth. The commission shall consist of the house and senate chairs of the joint  
4 committee on consumer protection and professional licensure who shall serve as co-chairs; the  
5 speaker of the house of representatives or a designee; the president of the senate or a designee;  
6 the house minority leader or a designee, the senate minority leader or a designee; the  
7 undersecretary of the executive office of consumer affairs and business regulation or a designee;  
8 the secretary of elder affairs or a designee; the president of the Massachusetts chiefs of police  
9 association or a designee; the president of the district attorneys association or a designee, the  
10 president of the Massachusetts retailers association or a designee, 1 member shall be appointed  
11 by the Massachusetts Technology Leadership Council; and 1 member shall be appointed by the  
12 Massachusetts Chapter of AARP. The commission shall explore the reasons why elders are  
13 targeted by scammers and identify methods and techniques to protect elders from falling prey to  
14 scam tactics. Due diligence by the commission shall include but not be limited to studying and

15 making recommendations on the following prevention methods: a master registry of gift cards, a  
16 final check at retail sale of gift cards, a public education and awareness campaign, the use of  
17 technology to prevent such crimes.

18           The commission shall present to the executive office of elder affairs and the general court  
19 its findings its recommendations, if any, together with drafts of legislation necessary to carry its  
20 recommendations into effect by filing them with the clerk of the house of representatives and the  
21 clerk of the senate, who shall forward the same to the joint committee on consumer protection  
22 and professional licensure and the house and senate committees on ways and means on or before  
23 June 30, 2020. The commission's role shall be advisory in nature, and its recommendations,  
24 decisions, and actions shall not be binding on the executive branch or the legislative branch.  
25 Upon acceptance of their report, the special commission shall be dissolved.