

HOUSE No. 4162

Substituted by the House, on motion of Mr. Speliotis of Danvers, for a resolve with the same title (House, No. 4162). June 9, 2014.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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In the Year Two Thousand Fourteen
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Resolve providing for an investigation and study by a special commission relative to aphasia.

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

14 The commission shall: (1) establish a mechanism in order to ascertain the prevalence of
15 aphasia in Massachusetts, and the unmet needs of persons with aphasia and those of their
16 families; (2) study model aphasia support programs, such as the Aphasia Center at
17 Massachusetts General Hospital’s Institute of Health Professions Department of Communication
18 Sciences and Disorders and the Aphasia Resource Center at Boston University College of Health
19 & Rehabilitation Sciences: Sargent College; and (3) provide recommendations for additional
20 legislation, support programs and resources necessary to meet the unmet needs of persons with
21 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 clerks of the house of representatives
38 and the senate on or before December 31, 2014.