

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 4281**

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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**In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court  
(2015-2016)**  
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An Act establishing an taskforce on the transportation of elders, veterans, and those with disabilities.

*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. There shall be a special task force convened to identify existing structural  
2 or policy-based impediments to delivering a more comprehensive and efficient transportation  
3 system for the senior, disabled, and veteran populations of the Commonwealth.

4           The task force shall consist of 11 members: 1 of whom shall be the Secretary of Elder  
5 Affairs or their designee, who shall serve as co-chair; 1 of whom shall be the Secretary of  
6 Transportation or their designee, who shall serve as co-chair; 1 of whom shall be the Secretary of  
7 Veterans Affairs or their designee; 1 of whom shall be the executive director of the  
8 Massachusetts Councils on Aging; 1 of whom shall be the executive director of the Disabled  
9 Persons Protection Commission; 1 of whom shall be the general manager of the Massachusetts  
10 Bay Transit Authority, or their designee; 1 of whom shall be a representative of the  
11 Massachusetts Regional Transit Authorities; 1 of whom shall be the executive director of the  
12 Massachusetts Municipal Association; 1 of whom shall be a representative of the Disabled  
13 American Veterans Department of Massachusetts; 1 of whom shall be a representative of the

14 Massachusetts Office on Disability; and 1 of whom shall be a representative of the Human  
15 Service Transportation Office.

16 In its examination, the task force shall review how transit service is currently provided to  
17 the senior, disabled, and veteran population of the Commonwealth by both public and private  
18 means and identify problems owing to redundancy and overlapping jurisdictions/service areas in  
19 both the scheduling and delivery of transportation services. The task force shall also review the  
20 manner in which elderly and disabled persons are deemed eligible for services, including but not  
21 limited to the RIDE and other paratransit services, and shall identify an appropriate certification  
22 process that imposes the least burden on persons seeking certification or re-certification. The  
23 task force shall then draft recommendations to improve the way transportation is provided to the  
24 elder, disabled, and veteran populations in a more efficient, cost-effective manner.

25 The task force shall submit its report, findings, recommendations and any proposed  
26 legislation and regulatory changes to the Governor, the joint committee on Elder Affairs, and the  
27 joint committee on Transportation not later than July 1, 2017.