

HOUSE No. 4497

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, March 5, 2020.

The committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities, to whom was referred the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 171) of Steven Ultrino and others for an investigation by a special commission (including members of the General Court) of anti-poverty strategies aimed at reducing chronic, multi-generational family poverty, reports recommending that the accompanying bill (House, No. 4497) ought to pass.

For the committee,

KAY KHAN.

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

An Act establishing a special commission on two-generation approaches to childhood education.

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. (a) There shall be a special commission entitled the Special Commission on
2 Two-Generation Approaches to study and make recommendations concerning the
3 implementation of two-generation systems in the commonwealth, as defined by focusing on
4 creating opportunities for and addressing needs of both vulnerable parents and children together.

5 (b) For the purposes of this commission, a “Two-Generation Approach” shall mean an
6 anti-poverty strategy aimed at reducing chronic, multi-generational family poverty by getting
7 better outcomes for the child, parents, and community simultaneously. The commission shall: (1)
8 measure and account for outcomes for both children and their parents; (2) engage and listen to
9 the voice of families; (3) foster innovation and evidence together, (4) align and link systems and
10 funding streams, (5) prioritize intentional implementation, and (6) ensure equity.

11 (c) The commission shall consist of the following: the co-chairs of the joint committee on
12 children, families and persons with disabilities or a designee, who shall serve as co-chairs; the
13 co-chairs of the joint committee on education or designees; the commissioner of early education

14 and care or a designee; the commissioner of elementary and secondary education or a designee;
15 commissioner of the department of higher education or a designee; commissioner of the
16 department of transitional assistance or a designee; secretary of labor and workforce
17 development or a designee; secretary of housing and economic development or designee; 6
18 persons to be appointed by the commission co-chairs, 3 of whom shall be representatives of
19 community-based organizations that have experience working with youth and families, 2 of
20 whom shall be representatives of research, educational, and philanthropic institutions
21 specializing in education including early childhood education, and 1 of whom shall be a
22 representative of an organization with interest in two-generation approaches.

23 (d) The commission shall: (1) solicit information and input from service providers,
24 families, educational institutions, and any other parties or entities the commission deems
25 appropriate; review and identify best practices learned from similar efforts in other states and
26 identify the core components of a model two-generation approach for parents and their children;
27 (2) establish a two-generational school and employment readiness plan for the commonwealth to
28 promote long-term learning and economic success for low-income families by addressing
29 intergenerational barriers to school readiness and workforce readiness with intensified workforce
30 training and targeted education, coupled with related support services; (3) study and make
31 recommendations for inter-agency resources and services in order to best maximize existing state
32 resources available to fund an expansion of two-generation approaches for parents and their
33 children; (4) develop recommendations to measure and evaluate progress for both children and
34 their parents through specified dual generation approaches that result in improved outcomes; (5)
35 other recommendations as the commission may deem appropriate.

36 (e) Members of the commission shall be named and the commission shall commence its
37 work within 60 days of the effective date of this act. The commission shall report to the general
38 court and governor the results of its study, together with any draft legislation, regulations or
39 administrative procedure necessary to implement two-generation approaches in the
40 commonwealth by filing the same with the clerks of the senate and the house of representatives
41 and the house and senate chairs of the joint committee on education and the joint committee on
42 children, families and persons with disabilities, not more than 1 year after the effective date of
43 this act.