

SENATE No. 1034

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Bruce E. Tarr

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 bill:

An Act establishing a divorce task force.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Bruce E. Tarr

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

First Essex and Middlesex

SENATE No. 1034

By Mr. Tarr, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1034) of Bruce E. Tarr for legislation to establish a divorce task force. The Judiciary.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act establishing a divorce task force.

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 is hereby established the Commonwealth divorce task force, whose
2 purpose shall be to examine, evaluate, and analyze the system of divorce in Massachusetts, and
3 to make any recommendations necessary to improve its efficiency and fairness, and to eliminate
4 any adverse impacts on all parties affected by the system, including but not limited to, litigants
5 and their children, attorneys, and the judges and staff of the probate and family court. The task
6 force shall consider matters including but not limited to prenuptial agreements, mediation,
7 division of assets, child custody, and the duration and efficiency of court and related
8 proceedings.

9 The task force shall consist of the following members: 3 members appointed by the
10 governor, each having knowledge and experience related to probate and family law in the state of
11 Massachusetts, one of which shall be designated and serve as chair; 2 members appointed by the
12 president of the senate; 1 member appointed by the minority leader of the senate; 2 members
13 appointed by the speaker of the house; 1 member appointed by the minority leader of the house;

14 the attorney general or a designee; 1 member representing the Massachusetts bar association; 2
15 members representing the probate and family court, appointed by the chief justice of the court; 1
16 member representing the Massachusetts office of public collaboration; and 1 member
17 representing the children's league of Massachusetts.

18 The task force shall file a report containing its findings and recommendations, including
19 any draft legislation necessary to carry out its recommendations, with the clerks of the house of
20 representatives and senate, the senate and house chairs of the joint committee on economic
21 development and emerging technologies and the chairs of the house and senate committees on
22 ways and means not later than June 31, 2020.