

SENATE No. 1089

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Kenneth J. Donnelly

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 relative to mental health peer specialists certification.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Kenneth J. Donnelly</i>	<i>Fourth Middlesex</i>	
<i>Paul R. Heroux</i>	<i>2nd Bristol</i>	<i>1/31/2017</i>
<i>Thomas M. Stanley</i>	<i>9th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/3/2017</i>

SENATE No. 1089

By Mr. Donnelly, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1089) of Kenneth J. Donnelly, Paul R. Heroux and Thomas M. Stanley for legislation relative to mental health peer specialists certification. Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninetieth General Court
(2017-2018)**

An Act relative to mental health peer specialists certification.

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 commission to investigate, study, and evaluate the
2 scope of mental health peer support programs in all regions of the commonwealth to determine
3 the scope of peer programs, classification and types of peer specialists and appropriate training
4 and certification requirements for such programs. The commission shall consist of the co-chairs
5 of the joint committee on mental health and substance abuse, who shall serve as co-chairs of the
6 commission; the secretary of health and human services or a medical professional; the
7 commissioner of mental health or a designee; the commissioner of public health or a designee;
8 the director of Medicaid or a designee; 1 representative appointed by the commissioner of the
9 Massachusetts rehabilitation commission or a designee; 1 representative from the Transformation
10 Center, a statewide peer-job training organization; 1 representative from the Massachusetts
11 Behavioral Health Partnership, a statewide behavioral health managed care company; 1
12 representative from the Association for Behavioral Healthcare, a community services
13 organization; 1 representative from the National Alliance on Mental Illness Massachusetts, a

14 statewide organization representing people with mental illness and their families; and 1 family
15 member of a mental health consumer appointed by the co-chairs of the commission.

16 The commission study shall include, but not be limited to, an examination and
17 identification of best practices related to training and credential requirements for peer specialist
18 programs, including: (1) types and categories of services provided by peer programs, including
19 support, rehabilitation and clinical programs; (2) types and categories of services that require
20 certification; (3) supervision required for categories of services that require certification; (4)
21 hours of formal work or volunteer experience related to mental health and substance use
22 disorders conducted through such programs; (5) types of peer-support specialist exams required
23 for such programs; (6) codes of ethics used by such programs; (7) required or recommended skill
24 sets for such programs; (8) requirements for continuing education; (9) any other criteria
25 necessary to develop peer specialist certification requirements; and (10) best practices from other
26 states.

27 The commission shall submit its findings and recommendations, together with drafts of
28 legislation necessary to carry those recommendations into effect by filing the same with the
29 clerks of the house of representatives and senate, to the department of mental health and the joint
30 committee on mental health and substance abuse not later than 1 year after the enactment of this
31 act.