

**SENATE . . . . . No. 1164**

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

***John F. Keenan***

*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 to assess the Commonwealth's eye care and vision health needs.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>John F. Keenan</i>	<i>Norfolk and Plymouth</i>
<i>Tackey Chan</i>	<i>2nd Norfolk</i>
<i>Chris Walsh</i>	<i>6th Middlesex</i>
<i>Anne M. Gobi</i>	<i>Worcester, Hampden, Hampshire and Middlesex</i>
<i>David T. Vieira</i>	<i>3rd Barnstable</i>
<i>Sal N. DiDomenico</i>	<i>Middlesex and Suffolk</i>
<i>Bruce J. Ayers</i>	<i>1st Norfolk</i>
<i>Barbara L'Italien</i>	<i>Second Essex and Middlesex</i>
<i>Sean Garballey</i>	<i>23rd Middlesex</i>
<i>Susan Williams Gifford</i>	<i>2nd Plymouth</i>
<i>Marc T. Lombardo</i>	<i>22nd Middlesex</i>
<i>Bradley H. Jones, Jr.</i>	<i>20th Middlesex</i>
<i>Thomas J. Calter</i>	<i>12th Plymouth</i>
<i>James Arciero</i>	<i>2nd Middlesex</i>

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By Mr. Keenan, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1164) of John F. Keenan, Tackey Chan, Chris Walsh, Anne M. Gobi and other members of the General Court for legislation to assess the Commonwealth’s eye care and vision health needs. Public Health.

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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 to assess the Commonwealth’s eye care and vision health needs.

*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 on the eye care and vision health  
2 needs of the Commonwealth. The commission shall consist of 13 members who shall be  
3 appointed by the governor: 1 of whom shall be a representative of the New England College of  
4 Optometry; 1 of whom shall be a representative of a medical school located in the  
5 Commonwealth; 1 of whom shall be a representative of the Massachusetts Society of  
6 Optometrists; 1 of whom shall be a representative of the Massachusetts Society of Eye  
7 Physicians and Surgeons; 1 of whom shall be an optometrist who is licensed in the  
8 Commonwealth; 1 of whom shall be an ophthalmologist who is licensed in the Commonwealth;  
9 1 of whom shall be a representative of the Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers,  
10 Inc.; 1 of whom shall be a representative of the Massachusetts Commission for the Blind; 1 of  
11 whom shall be a representative of an organization that advocates for consumers of health care; 1  
12 of whom shall be a representative of the Massachusetts Public Health Association; 1 of whom  
13 shall be a representative of the Executive Office of Education; 1 of whom shall be a

14 representative of the Executive Office of Elder Affairs and; 1 of whom shall be a representative  
15 of the Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services, who shall serve as  
16 chairperson of the commission.

17         The commission shall: (i) report on the current status of and foreseeable needs for eye  
18 care and vision health in the Commonwealth; (ii) identify existing pathways for access to eye  
19 and vision care services; (iii) identify mechanisms for addressing the Commonwealth's unmet  
20 eye care and vision health needs with a particular focus on urban and rural settings; (iv) identify  
21 strategies for addressing the Commonwealth's unmet eye care and vision health needs in  
22 children and seniors and (v) provide recommendations for additional legislation, support  
23 programs and resources necessary to provide persons with eye care or vision health needs access  
24 to services.

25         Vacancies in the membership of the commission shall be filled in the same manner  
26 provided for the original appointments. The commission shall organize within 120 days  
27 following the appointment of a majority of its members. The chairperson shall appoint a  
28 secretary who need not be a member of the commission.

29         The commission shall be entitled to call to its assistance and avail itself of the services of  
30 the employees of any state, county or municipal department, board, bureau, commission or  
31 agency as it may require and as may be available to it for its purposes. The executive office of  
32 health and human services shall provide staff support to the commission.

33         The commission shall report to the general court the results of its investigation and study  
34 and its recommendations, if any, together with drafts of legislation necessary to carry its  
35 recommendations into effect, by filing the same with Joint Committee on Public Health, the Joint

36 Committee on Health Care Financing and the clerks of the house of representatives and the  
37 senate on or before December 31, 2016.