

**SENATE . . . . . No. 1527**

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**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 commission on quality patient outcomes and nurse staffing.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

*Bruce E. Tarr*

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

*First Essex and Middlesex*

**SENATE . . . . . No. 1527**

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By Mr. Tarr, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1527) of Bruce E. Tarr for legislation to establish a commission on quality patient outcomes and nurse staffing. Public Health.

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[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE SENATE, NO. 1345 OF 2019-2020.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Second General Court  
(2021-2022)**  
\_\_\_\_\_

An Act establishing a commission on quality patient outcomes and nurse staffing.

*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. Chapter 6 of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the following  
2 section:-

3           Section 220.(a) There shall be a commission on nurse staffing in hospitals located within,  
4 but not subject to the control of the executive office of health and human services. The  
5 commission shall work to develop safe staffing standards for all hospital units.

6           (b) (1) The commission shall consist of 15 members, as follows: the secretary of health  
7 and human services or a designee, who shall serve as the chair; the attorney general or a  
8 designee; the executive director of the health policy commission or a designee; the house chair of  
9 the joint committee on public health; the senate chair of the joint committee on public health; one  
10 person appointed by the speaker of the house; one person appointed by the senate president; one

11 person appointed by the minority leader of the house; one person appointed by the minority  
12 leader of the senate; and one representative from each of the following 8 organizations:  
13 American Nurses Association Massachusetts, Inc.; Massachusetts Emergency Nurse Association  
14 of; Massachusetts Nurses Association; Organization of Nurse Leaders; the Massachusetts  
15 Hospital Association; Service Employees United International; Massachusetts Health Council;  
16 and Health Law Advocates.

17 (2) Members of the commission shall serve for a term of 4 years, without compensation.  
18 Any member shall be eligible for reappointment. Vacancies shall be filled in accordance with  
19 paragraph (1) for the remainder of the unexpired term. Any member who is appointed by the  
20 governor may be removed by the governor for cause.

21 (c) The commission may establish advisory committees to assist its work.

22 (d) The commission shall: examine evidence based, tested and validated research on  
23 patient care quality outcomes relative to nurse staffing levels; examine evidence based, tested  
24 and validated research on optimal staffing levels for all units within a hospital; examine  
25 approaches undertaken by other states by statute or regulation to address the issue of patient  
26 safety relative to nurse staffing; examine any barriers to reasonable and efficient enforcement of  
27 staffing standards adopted in other jurisdictions; develop strategies for collaborative practice  
28 amongst registered nurses and other members of the health care team; hold public hearings and  
29 meetings to accept comment from the general public and to seek advice from experts; submit an  
30 annual report to the legislature as provided in subsection (e) on the state of hospital staffing in  
31 the Commonwealth.

32           (e) The commission shall file an annual report, on or before March 1, with the joint  
33 committee on public health on its activities and any statutory or regulatory recommendations.  
34 The commission shall monitor the implementation of its recommendations and update  
35 recommendations to reflect current science and evidence based practice.