

SENATE No. 2147

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court
(2015-2016)
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SENATE, Monday, February 29, 2016

The committee on Public Health to whom was referred the petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1147) of Jennifer L. Flanagan, Kate Hogan and James B. Eldridge for legislation to establish a commission on malnutrition prevention,- reports the accompanying bill (Senate, No. 2147).

For the committee,
Jason M. Lewis

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An Act establishing a commission on malnutrition prevention.

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 111 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2014 Official Edition,
2 is hereby amended by adding the following new section:-

3 Section 236 There shall be a commission on malnutrition prevention within the
4 department. The commission shall consist of the commissioner of public health or the
5 commissioner's designee, who shall chair the commission; the secretary of elder affairs or the
6 secretary's designee; the commissioner of the department of transitional assistance or the
7 commissioner's designee; the commissioner of the department of agricultural resources or the
8 commissioner's designee; the co-chairs of the joint committee on elder affairs or their designees;
9 and nine members to be appointed by the governor, 1 of whom shall be a physician, 1 of whom
10 shall be a university researcher, 1 of whom shall be a community-based registered dietitian
11 nutritionist working with older Americans act funded programs, 1 of whom shall be a
12 representative of hospitals or integrated health systems, 2 of whom shall be nurses working in
13 home care, 1 of whom shall be a registered dietitian nutritionist working with a long-term care or
14 assisted living facility, 1 of whom shall be a registered dietitian nutritionist representing the

15 Massachusetts dietetic association, and 1 of whom shall be a representative from the
16 Massachusetts association of councils on aging, inc.

17 The commission on malnutrition prevention shall make an investigation and
18 comprehensive study of the effects of malnutrition on older adults in the commonwealth and of
19 the most effective strategies for reducing it. The commission shall also monitor the effects of
20 malnutrition among older adults on health care costs and outcomes, quality indicators, and
21 quality of life measures. In addition, the commission shall: (1) Consider strategies to improve
22 data collection and analysis to identify malnutrition risk, health care cost data and protective
23 factors for older adults; (2) Assess the risk and measure the incidence of malnutrition occurring
24 in various settings across the continuum of care and the impact of care transitions; (3) Identify
25 evidence-based strategies that raise public awareness of older adult malnutrition such as through
26 educational materials, social marketing, state-wide campaigns, and public health events; (4)
27 Identify evidence-based strategies, including community nutrition programs, used to reduce the
28 rate of malnutrition among older adults and reduce the rate of re-hospitalizations and healthcare
29 acquired infections related to malnutrition; (5) Consider strategies to maximize the dissemination
30 of proven, effective malnutrition prevention interventions including community nutrition
31 programs, medical nutrition therapy, and oral nutrition supplements and identify barriers to those
32 interventions; (6) Examine the components and key elements of the above malnutrition
33 prevention initiatives, consider their applicability in the commonwealth and develop strategies
34 for pilot-testing, implementation and evaluation.