

SENATE No. 2996

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

SENATE, January 4, 2021.

The committee on Veterans and Federal Affairs, to whom was referred the petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2164) of Barry R. Finegold, Diana DiZoglio, Colleen M. Garry, David Allen Robertson and others for legislation to establish a Commission on Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, reports the accompanying bill (Senate, No. 2996).

For the committee,
Walter F. Timilty

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(2019-2020)**

An Act establishing a Commission on Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 Chapter 6A of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 104 the following
2 section:-

3 Section 105. (a) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the Executive Office
4 of Health and Human Services shall establish a Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Commission.
5 The commission shall consist of: the Secretary of the Executive Office of Health and Human
6 Services, or a designee, who shall serve as Chair; the Secretary of the Executive Office of Public
7 Safety, or a designee; the Commissioner of the Department of Mental Health, or a designee and
8 17 persons to be appointed by the Secretary of the Executive Office of Health and Human
9 Services: 2 of whom shall be experts in the field, 1 from Massachusetts General Hospital and 1
10 from Harvard University PTSD Research Laboratory in consultation with their relevant specialty
11 chapters, 1 of whom shall be a representative from the Secretary of Massachusetts Veterans'™
12 Affairs or a designee, 1 of whom shall be a representative of the American Legion Department of
13 Massachusetts, 1 of whom shall be a representative of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Department
14 of Massachusetts, 1 of whom shall be a representative of the Federal Veterans Administration, 1
15 of whom shall be a representative of the Department of Children and Families, 1 of whom shall
16 be a representative of Boston Children's Hospital, 1 of whom shall be a representative of New
17 England Police Benevolent Association, 1 of whom shall be a representative of the
18 Massachusetts Police Association, 1 of whom shall be a representative of Jane Doe, Inc., 1 of
19 whom shall be representative from Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition,
20 1 of whom shall be a representative of Professional Fire Fighters of Massachusetts, 1 of whom
21 shall be a representative of an Emergency Medical Services program, and 3 of whom shall be
22 representative of a research advocacy, or support organization primarily serving individuals with
23 PTSD, 1 of whom shall be a representative of the National Guard and appointed by the adjutant

24 general of the Massachusetts National Guard, 1 of whom shall be appointed from Massachusetts
25 General Hospital Home Base program, 1 of whom shall be appointed by the Massachusetts
26 Corrections Officers Federated Union; and the House and Senate Chairs of the Joint Committee
27 on Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery.

28 (b) The Commission shall: (1) develop and biennially update a summary of the advances made in
29 research on and treatment and diagnosis of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder; (2) develop and
30 biennially update a summary of the advances made in access to care for individuals with a
31 diagnosis Post Traumatic Stress Disorder; (3) monitor Post Traumatic Stress Disorder research
32 services, and support activities across the commonwealth, including coordination of the
33 commonwealth's activities and programs with respect to Post Traumatic Stress Disorder; (4)
34 develop and annually update a comprehensive strategic plan to improve health outcomes for
35 individuals with a diagnosis of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder including recommendations to (a)
36 advance research on Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, (b) improve the treatment of Post Traumatic
37 Stress Disorder, (c) improve public awareness and recognition of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder,
38 (d) improve mental health care delivery for individuals with a diagnosis of Post Traumatic Stress
39 Disorder, (e) improve the early and accurate diagnosis of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and (f)
40 systematically advance the full spectrum of biomedical research on Post Traumatic Stress
41 Disorder; (5) develop and biennially update the progress made in implementing such
42 comprehensive strategic plan.

43 (c) The Commission shall submit its recommendations to the Governor and the Clerks of the
44 House of Representatives and Senate biennially on or before January 31st of the second year of
45 the legislative session.