

SENATE No. 76

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Linda Dorcena Forry

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 providing for an investigation and study by a special interagency task force relative to gender-responsive programming for juvenile justice system-involved girls.

PETITION OF:

| NAME: | DISTRICT/ADDRESS: |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <i>Linda Dorcena Forry</i> | <i>First Suffolk</i> |
| <i>Gloria L. Fox</i> | <i>7th Suffolk</i> |
| <i>James B. Eldridge</i> | <i>Middlesex and Worcester</i> |
| <i>Jason M. Lewis</i> | <i>Fifth Middlesex</i> |
| <i>Jennifer L. Flanagan</i> | <i>Worcester and Middlesex</i> |
| <i>Denise Provost</i> | <i>27th Middlesex</i> |
| <i>Daniel Cullinane</i> | <i>12th Suffolk</i> |
| <i>Kay Khan</i> | <i>11th Middlesex</i> |

SENATE No. 76

By Ms. Forry, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 76) of Linda Dorcena Forry, Gloria L. Fox, James B. Eldridge, Jason M. Lewis and other members of the General Court for legislation to provide for an investigation and study by a special interagency task force relative to gender-responsive programming for juvenile justice system-involved girls. Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 83 OF 2013-2014.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court
(2015-2016)**

An Act providing for an investigation and study by a special interagency task force relative to gender-responsive programming for juvenile justice system-involved girls.

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 219. (a) There shall be a special interagency task force to investigate and study
4 methods of instituting gender-responsive programming for juvenile justice system-involved girls
5 and improve the effectiveness of services for juvenile justice system-involved girls.

6 (b) The task force shall consist of: 2 members of the senate, 1 of whom shall be appointed
7 by the minority leader; 2 members of the house of representatives, 1 of whom shall be appointed
8 by the minority leader; the secretary of health and human services or a designee; the

9 commissioner of elementary and secondary education or a designee; the commissioner of
10 probation or a designee; the commissioner of youth services or a designee; the commissioner of
11 children and families or a designee; the commissioner of mental health or a designee; the
12 commissioner of public health or a designee; the chief counsel for the committee for public
13 counsel services or a designee; the chief justice of the juvenile court department or a designee;
14 and 8 persons to be appointed by the governor who are current state vendors or representatives of
15 current state vendors that provide direct services to high-risk girls and who collectively serve or
16 reside in each major geographic area of the commonwealth. The governor shall designate a
17 chairperson or 2 co-chairpersons from the members of the task force.

18 (c) The task force shall: (i) conduct a review of gender-responsive programming
19 implementation successes and challenges in the commonwealth and in other states' juvenile
20 justice systems; (ii) conduct a review of the published reports, curricula and best practices for
21 gender-specific programming by government, foundations and non-profit organizations; (iii)
22 conduct a review of leading indicators that statistically result in girls becoming involved in
23 juvenile justice systems; (iv) review relevant state training curricula; (v) review relevant state
24 agencies' methods of data collection and aggregation by gender and race; (vi) analyze and
25 evaluate relevant state contracts with private or community-based vendors to determine whether
26 the vendors utilize a comprehensive approach when providing programming for girls involved in
27 juvenile justice systems; (vii) analyze and report the rates of recidivism amongst juvenile justice
28 system-involved girls; (viii) analyze and report the rates of non-juvenile justice system executive
29 agency service utilization by juvenile justice system-involved girls; (ix) track and analyze
30 educational attainment of juvenile justice system-involved girls; (x) hold at least 3 regional
31 meetings to solicit the input of community members and agencies serving high-risk girls; and

32 (xi) establish a mechanism for incorporating the opinions of juvenile justice system-involved
33 girls into the findings of the task force.

34 (d) The task force shall meet at least 4 times per year at the call of the chair or
35 chairpersons or at the call of a majority of the members of the task force. The task force may
36 seek assistance from other organizations or individuals on a pro bono basis. The task force shall
37 file biennial reports that shall include recommendations relative to community-based and state-
38 wide gender-responsive programming for serving high-risk and juvenile justice system-involved
39 girls with the clerks of the senate and the house of representatives who shall forward the same to
40 the joint committee on children, families and persons with disabilities.

41 SECTION 2. The initial report of the special interagency task force shall be filed by
42 January 31, 2016.