

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 1717

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By Mr. Sannicandro of Ashland, petition of Tom Sannicandro and Kay Khan for an investigation by a special commission (including members of the General Court) of the health services and environmental conditions at all Department of Correction and county correctional facilities. The Judiciary.

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Seven.

RESOLVE TO ESTABLISH A COMMISSION TO EVALUATE HEALTH SERVICES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS AT ALL DOC AND COUNTY CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES.

1     *Resolved*, That, notwithstanding the provisions of any general or  
2 special law to the contrary, there is hereby established a Commission  
3 to investigate, report on and recommend changes in, the health serv-  
4 ices and environmental conditions at all Department of Correction  
5 and County correctional facilities. Said commission shall collect and  
6 report on data on the health status, health services and environmental  
7 conditions available to residents including those awaiting trial, in  
8 temporary custody or part of the general population. Said commis-  
9 sion shall evaluate health services in comparison with community  
10 standards for health care and environmental quality, prompt access  
11 to care and appropriate treatment and staffing including psycholog-  
12 ical, psychiatric, surgical and other interventions. The commission  
13 shall develop strategic, legislative and financial recommendations to  
14 address any differences in health care standards from those expected  
15 of community hospitals and clinics licensed by the Massachusetts  
16 Department of Public Health, Division of Health Care Quality.  
17     The commission shall be composed of the House and Senate  
18 Chairs of the Joint Committee on Public Safety who shall serve as  
19 co-chairs of the commission; the House and Senate Chairs of the  
20 Committee on Health Care; the Secretary of Public Safety or his  
21 designee; the Commissioner of Corrections or her designee; the  
22 Commissioner of Public Health or her designee; the Commissioner

23 of Mental Health or her designee; one representative from each of  
24 the following organizations: Massachusetts College of Emergency  
25 Room Physicians; Massachusetts Medical Society; Massachusetts  
26 Public Health Association; Massachusetts Correctional Legal Serv-  
27 ices; Governor's Commission on Corrections Reform.

28 Said commission shall file a report of its study, including its rec-  
29 ommendations and drafts of legislation with the clerks of the Senate  
30 and House of Representatives on or before December 31, 2007. The  
31 sum of \$200,000 shall be separately appropriated for the purposes of  
32 this act.