

HOUSE No. 2936

By Mr. Guyer of Dalton (by request), petition of Jeffery E. Coe for an investigation and study by a special commission (including members of the General Court) of the tax laws and the impairment of drivers due to prescription drug abuse. Revenue.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Seven.

RESOLVE TO STUDY DRIVING IMPAIRMENT DUE TO PRESCRIPTION DRUG ABUSE.

1 SECTION 1. *Resolved*, That there shall be established a special
2 commission to consist of three members of the senate, who shall be
3 appointed by the president of the senate, three members of the house
4 of representatives of the house, who shall be appointed by the
5 speaker of the house of representatives, and nine persons to be
6 appointed by the governor, one of whom shall be the attorney
7 general or her designee, one of whom shall be the secretary of public
8 safety or his designee, one of whom shall be a member of the
9 Massachusetts Medical Association, one of whom shall be a member
10 of the Massachusetts Pharmacists Association, one of whom shall be
11 a member of the Massachusetts Police Association and one of whom
12 shall be a member of the Massachusetts Association for Criminal
13 Defense Lawyers, for the purpose of making an investigation and
14 study to ascertain the yield of each tax and fee now levied by the
15 state and to investigate any and all taxes that could be levied to pro-
16 vide state revenue and to advise which taxes or fees to keep, elimi-
17 nate and/or add to provide the needed revenue for the State. All
18 appointments to said commission shall be made within 30 days of
19 the effective date hereof. The chairman of said commission shall be
20 selected by the members thereof. Seven members of the commission
21 shall constitute a quorum and a majority of all members present and
22 voting shall be required for any action voted by said commission
23 including, but not limited to, voting on formal recommendations or
24 proposed legislation.

1 SECTION 2. Said commission, as part of its review, analysis and
2 study, in making such recommendations regarding the ability for dri-
3 vers to safely operate a motor vehicle under the influence of pre-
4 scription drugs when not taken as prescribed or when combined with
5 varying amounts of alcohol, shall focus on and consider the
6 following issues, proposals and impacts:—

7 a) Determine the scope and situations in which drivers are
8 impaired when under the influence of prescription drugs when not
9 taken as prescribed or when combined with varying amounts of
10 alcohol;

11 b) A review of other states' policies for regarding drivers oper-
12 ating under the influence of prescription drugs when not taken as
13 prescribed or when combined with varying amounts of alcohol;

14 c) Consideration of the possible benefits, consequences and/or
15 adverse impacts of implementing regulations;

16 d) Suggestions for public awareness of the dangers of impaired
17 driving due to prescription drug abuse;

18 e) Recommendations as to legislation needed to increase the
19 safety of motorists and passengers by deterring impaired driving;

20 f) Consideration of any other issues, studies, proposals or impacts
21 that, in the judgment of the commission, may be relevant, pertinent
22 or material to the study, analysis and review of said commission.

23 Said commission shall submit, not later than one year after the
24 effective date hereof, a copy of a final report of its findings resulting
25 from its study, review, analysis and consideration, including legisla-
26 tive recommendations, if any, to the clerks of the house of represen-
27 tatives and the senate, the governor, the president of the senate, the
28 speaker of the house of representatives, the chairs of the house and
29 senate committees on ways and means, the chairs of the joint com-
30 mittee on revenue. Any department, division, commission, public
31 body, authority, board, bureau or agency of the commonwealth shall
32 cooperate with the commission for the purpose of providing infor-
33 mation or professional expertise and skill relevant to the mission of
34 the commission.

1 SECTION 3. This statute shall expire 30 days after the filing of
2 the final report of the commission.