

HOUSE No. 3719

By Ms. Reinstein of Revere, petition of Kathi-Anne Reinstein and Christine E. Canavan for legislation to establish an office of prevention of sexual harassment of members and former members of the armed forces. Veterans and Federal Affairs.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Seven.

AN ACT TO DEVELOP AN OFFICE TO PREVENT SEXUAL HARASSMENT.

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 seven of the Mass. General Laws is hereby amended by
2 adding, at the end of Section 4M, the following paragraph:—

3 There shall be established, within the department of veterans’
4 services, an Office of Prevention of Sexual Harassment of Members
5 and Former Members of the Armed Forces, whose mission is to
6 evaluate conditions and incidences of sexual harassment of members
7 of the armed forces, and of veterans of the armed forces.

8 Among the duties of the Office is to evaluate the scope and
9 impact of problems relative to sexual harassment within the armed
10 forces and for veterans; problems being experienced by victims of
11 sexual harassment; evaluate preventive measures, education and
12 training, and counseling measures that could be implemented to pre-
13 vent sexual harassment, and other conditions and factors relevant to
14 determining comprehensive information and data.

15 The Office shall, upon completion of its evaluation and review,
16 issue its findings and recommendations, and make all efforts to
17 implement directives, preventive measures, codes of conduct, com-
18 pliance procedures for adherence to rules, regulations and laws gov-
19 erning acts of sexual harassment, counseling, education and
20 guidance, or other support services, and any other initiatives
21 designed to assist veterans and members of the armed forces who
22 have or who are experiencing acts of sexual harassment during their

23 current or past tour of duty in the armed forces, or who need assis-
24 tance and support services during transitions into civilian life.

25 The Office shall utilize all available resources to fulfill its intent
26 and objectives, including, but not limited to, current resources and
27 services available, access to services, treatment, and programs
28 existing in any state agency or subdivisions, and to call upon vet-
29 erans who have left service and who would be available, on a volun-
30 tary basis, to fulfill supportive, counseling, guidance, or any other
31 role that would assist victims of sexual harassment.