

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 4526

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Substituted by the House, on motion of Mr. Verga of Gloucester, for a Resolve providing for an investigation and study by a special commission relative to the effects of war on returning Massachusetts service members (House, No. 4312). February 7, 2008.

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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In the Year Two Thousand and Eight.

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RESOLVE PROVIDING FOR AN INVESTIGATION AND STUDY BY A SPECIAL COMMISSION RELATIVE TO THE HIDDEN WOUNDS OF WAR ON MASSACHUSETTS SERVICE MEMBERS.

1     *Resolved*, That a special commission, to consist of 4 members  
2 of the senate, 1 of whom shall be the president of the senate or her  
3 designee who shall serve as co-chairperson, 1 of whom shall be  
4 the minority leader of the senate or his designee, 1 of whom shall  
5 be the chairman of the joint committee on veterans and federal  
6 affairs or his designee, and 1 of whom shall be the chairman of the  
7 joint committee on mental health and substance abuse or his  
8 designee, 6 members of the house of representatives, 1 of whom  
9 shall be the speaker of the house of representatives or his designee  
10 who shall serve as co-chairperson, 1 of whom shall be the  
11 minority leader of the house of representatives or his designee,  
12 1 of whom shall be the chairman of the joint committee on vet-  
13 erans and federal affairs or his designee, 1 of whom shall be the  
14 chairman of the joint committee on mental health and substance  
15 abuse or his designee, the adjutant general of the national guard or  
16 his designee, the secretary of veterans' services or his designee,  
17 the commissioner of the department of mental health or her  
18 designee, the commissioner of probation or his designee, and 5  
19 persons to be appointed by the governor, 1 of whom shall be a  
20 representative of the National Alliance on Mental Illness, 1 of  
21 whom shall be a veterans agent to be selected by the president of  
22 the Massachusetts Veterans' Service Officers Association, 1 of  
23 whom shall be a representative of the Massachusetts Chiefs of  
24 Police Association, is hereby established for the purposes of

25 making an investigation and study relative to the mental health  
26 effects of war on those citizens of the commonwealth returning  
27 from active duty, including the establishment of a mandatory  
28 mental health treatment program for national guard members who  
29 engage in combat, a state military family leave policy for care-  
30 givers, and a statewide education training program to assist law  
31 enforcement, corrections officers and other first responders in  
32 reorganizing the early warning signs of post-traumatic stress  
33 disorder.

34 All appointments shall be made on or before 30 days of the  
35 effective date of this resolve. The chairpersons shall meet with  
36 the commission on or before 60 days of the effective date of this  
37 resolve.

38 Members shall receive no compensation for their services but  
39 may receive reimbursement for the reasonable expenses incurred  
40 in carrying out their responsibilities as members of the commis-  
41 sion.

42 Said commission shall report to the general court the result of  
43 its investigation and study, and its recommendations, if any,  
44 together with drafts of legislation necessary to carry its recom-  
45 mendations into effect by filing the same with the clerk of the  
46 house of representatives who shall forward the same to the joint  
47 committee on veterans and federal affairs and the joint committee  
48 on mental health and substance abuse on or before September 15,  
49 2008.