

SENATE NO. 1078

AN ACT CREATING A SPECIAL TASK FORCE TO MAKE AN INVESTIGATION AND STUDY ON ISSUES RELATED TO THE HEALTHCARE WORK FORCE

*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. Notwithstanding the provisions of any general or special law to the contrary, there is
2 hereby established a special task force to study workforce issues relating to the shortage of health
3 care workers in the Commonwealth. The task force shall investigate and report on recent trends in
4 the health care labor market, including physicians, the nursing profession, other professionals in the
5 medical field, the relationship of reimbursement rates to these trends, and the impact of these trends
6 on the health care delivery system. The task force shall also develop and recommend strategies to
7 enhance the recruitment and retention of nurses and other health care workers in the Commonwealth
8 and shall serve as a clearinghouse for initiatives being undertaken across the state to deal with health
9 care workforce issues.

10 The task force shall be comprised of 23 members, including the House and Senate Chairs of the
11 Joint Committee on Health Care, who shall serve as co-chairs of the advisory council; the
12 House and Senate Chairs of the Joint Committee on Insurance; the House and Senate Chairs of
13 the Joint Committee on Commerce and Labor; a Senate member recommended by the Senate
14 President; a Senate member of the minority party recommended by the minority leader of the

15 Senate; a House member recommended by the Speaker of the House; a House member of the
16 minority party recommended by the minority leader of the House; the Secretary of
17 Administration and Finance or his designee; the Commissioner of the Department of Public
18 Health or his designee; the Director of the Board of Registration in Nursing or her designee; the
19 Director of the Department of Labor and Workforce Development or his designee; the dean of
20 an accredited nursing school in the Commonwealth; and one representative from each of the
21 following organizations: the Massachusetts Hospital Association, the Massachusetts
22 Organization of Nurse Executives, the Massachusetts Association of Behavioral Health
23 Systems, the Extended Care Federation, the Home and Health Care Association of
24 Massachusetts, the Massachusetts State Council of Service Employees International Union, the
25 Massachusetts Nurses Association, and the Center for Health Professions at Worcester State
26 College. Said task force shall file a report of its study, including its recommendations and drafts
27 of any legislation, if necessary, with the clerks of the Senate and House of Representatives
28 within six months of the effective date of this act.

