

SENATE No. 64

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Anthony W. Petruccelli

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act establishing a study commission on the needs of the elderly blind and visually impaired citizens of the Commonwealth.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Anthony W. Petruccelli

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

First Suffolk and Middlesex

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A STUDY COMMISSION ON THE NEEDS OF THE ELDERLY BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED CITIZENS OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

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 any general or special law or regulation to the contrary, a
2 special commission, the Needs of the Elderly Blind and Visually Impaired Study Commission,
3 after this referred to as the "commission," is hereby established for the purpose of investigating
4 and studying the needs of elderly blind and visually impaired citizens of the Commonwealth.
5 These needs shall include, but not be limited to, social services, health services and medically
6 adaptive equipment that would foster the achievement of full and independent living.
7 The commission shall consist of: one member appointed by the secretary of elder affairs, one
8 member who is a member of the vocational rehabilitation council, appointed by the
9 commissioner of Massachusetts commission for the blind, one member from the division of
10 vision and hearing, appointed by the commissioner of the department of public health, one
11 member to be appointed by the secretary of executive office of elder affairs, one member to be
12 appointed by the director of the Home Care Assistance Program of the independent living
13 division, one member to be appointed by the secretary of executive office of health and human
14 services, one member to be appointed by the League of Neighborhood Health Centers, one

15 member to be appointed by the Massachusetts Nursing Home Association, one member to be
16 appointed by the Massachusetts council on aging, one member from the Blind Veterans
17 Association, one member to be appointed by the Board of Ophthalmology, and three members to
18 be appointed by the governor who are members of the general public one of which is from the
19 Silver Hair Legislature.

20 This commission shall convene one month after the passage of this Act is signed into law and
21 shall file a report one year after passage with the offices of the House Clerk, the Senate Clerk
22 and the Governor , which shall include, but not be limited to, recommendations for improving
23 programs and services offered by the executive office of elder affairs and local councils on
24 aging, federal policies and services affecting the elderly blind and visually impaired,
25 transportation programs for elderly blind and visually impaired citizens, and the dissemination of
26 information regarding health care services and policies relative to elderly blind and visually
27 impaired citizens.