

**SENATE . . . . . No. 65**

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**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 surveying the needs of children and adults who are visually impaired and reside in 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 SURVEYING THE NEEDS OF CHILDREN AND ADULTS WHO ARE VISUALLY IMPAIRED AND RESIDE IN 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 to the contrary, the department  
2 of public health, as established in section 2 of chapter 111 of the General Laws, shall collect data  
3 that will determine what services will benefit the visually impaired and improve their quality of  
4 life, and shall further survey the general needs of children and adults who are visually impaired  
5 and this survey shall be completed and a report filed to the Clerk of the Senate before the end of  
6 the 2009-2010 General Court session.

7 For purposes of this study, an individual shall be considered visually impaired if they meet one  
8 or more of the following criteria and are not legally blind: (a) has an impairment of visual  
9 function which cannot be improved, by the use of corrective lenses, to a level that would  
10 normally be acceptable for reading without a special level of light; (b) is unable, through  
11 physical disability to hold or manipulate a book; or (3) is unable, through physical disability, to  
12 focus or move his eyes to the extent that would normally be acceptable for reading.

13 The members of the survey group shall include: 2 members from the department of public health  
14 and one of them from the division of vision and hearing, both appointed by the governor, the  
15 rehabilitation commissioner or designee, the commissioner for the blind or designee, the  
16 commissioner of the department of education or designee, a member from the office for children,  
17 a member of the Academy of Pediatrics, the chief executive officer of Massachusetts Association  
18 for the Blind (“MAB”), the president of the Massachusetts Association of Parents of Visually  
19 Impaired Children or designee, a member of the Board of Ophthalmology, and a member of the  
20 Federation of Children with Special Needs.

21 The specific content of the survey shall be determined by the survey group.