

**HOUSE . . . . . No.**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

**Tom Sannicandro**

*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:

Resolve to establish a commission to evaluate health services and environmental conditions at all DOC and county correctional facilities.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Tom Sannicandro

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

7th Middlesex

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE HOUSE, NO. 1717 OF 2007-2008.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**In the Year Two Thousand and Nine**

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**RESOLVE TO ESTABLISH A COMMISSION TO EVALUATE HEALTH SERVICES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS AT ALL DOC AND COUNTY CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES.**

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1        *Resolved,*

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3        Resolved, That, notwithstanding the provisions of any general or special law to the contrary, there is hereby  
4        established a Commission to investigate, report on and recommend changes in, the health services and  
5        environmental conditions at all Department of Correction and County correctional facilities. Said commission shall  
6        collect and report on data on the health status, health services and environmental conditions available to residents  
7        including those awaiting trial, in temporary custody or part of the general population. Said commission shall  
8        evaluate health services in comparison with community standards for health care and environmental quality,  
9        prompt access to care and appropriate treatment and staffing including psychological, psychiatric, surgical and  
10       other interventions. The commission shall develop strategic, legislative and financial recommendations to address  
11       any differences in health care standards from those expected of community hospitals and clinics licensed by the  
12       Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Division of Health Care Quality.

13       The commission shall be composed of the House and Senate Chairs of the Joint Committee on Public Safety  
14       who shall serve as co-chairs of the commission; the House and Senate Chairs of the Committee on Health Care; the  
15       Secretary of Public Safety or his designee; the Commissioner of Corrections or her designee; the Commissioner of  
16       Public Health or her designee; the Commissioner of Mental Health or her designee; one representative from each  
17       of the following organizations: Massachusetts College of Emergency Room Physicians; Massachusetts Medical  
18       Society; Massachusetts Public Health Association; Massachusetts Correctional Legal Services; Governor's  
19       Commission on Corrections Reform.

20                    Said commission shall file a report of its study, including its recommendations and drafts of legislation  
21 with the clerks of the Senate and House of Representatives on or before December 31, 2009. The sum of \$200,000  
22 shall be separately appropriated for the purposes of this act.