

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

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

**Anthony W. Petrucci**

*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. Petrucci

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

First Suffolk and Middlesex

# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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In the Year Two Thousand and Nine  
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## 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 special  
2 commission, the Needs of the Elderly Blind and Visually Impaired Study Commission, after this  
3 referred to as the "commission," is hereby established for the purpose of investigating and  
4 studying the needs of elderly blind and visually impaired citizens of the Commonwealth. These  
5 needs shall include, but not be limited to, social services, health services and medically adaptive  
6 equipment that would foster the achievement of full and independent living.

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8 The commission shall consist of: one member appointed by the secretary of elder affairs, one  
9 member who is a member of the vocational rehabilitation council, appointed by the  
10 commissioner of Massachusetts commission for the blind, one member from the division of  
11 vision and hearing, appointed by the commissioner of the department of public health, one  
12 member to be appointed by the secretary of executive office of elder affairs, one member to be

13 appointed by the director of the Home Care Assistance Program of the independent living  
14 division, one member to be appointed by the secretary of executive office of health and human  
15 services, one member to be appointed by the League of Neighborhood Health Centers, one  
16 member to be appointed by the Massachusetts Nursing Home Association, one member to be  
17 appointed by the Massachusetts council on aging, one member from the Blind Veterans  
18 Association, one member to be appointed by the Board of Ophthalmology, and three members to  
19 be appointed by the governor who are members of the general public one of which is from the  
20 Silver Hair Legislature.

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

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