

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

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

**O'Leary, Robert (SEN)**

*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 studying the health effects of toxic mold.**

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
O'Leary, Robert (SEN)	Cape and Islands

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE SENATE, NO. S01317 OF 2007-2008.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**In the Year Two Thousand and Nine**

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**AN ACT STUDYING THE HEALTH EFFECTS OF TOXIC MOLD.**

*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 of public health,  
2 in conjunction with the department of environmental protection, the division of occupational safety and  
3 the board of building regulations and standards, shall convene a task force to study the health effects of  
4 toxic mold and to recommend methods to protect the public from unsafe indoor exposure to toxic mold.  
5 The task force's study shall include, but not be limited to, the following areas: (a) current research, studies  
6 and findings regarding toxic molds and the health effects thereof, including but not limited to information  
7 available from the environmental protection agency and the centers for disease control; (b) current  
8 recommendations, based on scientific studies, regarding safe indoor exposure limits to toxic molds,  
9 including but not limited the recommendations put forth by the environmental protection agency and the  
10 centers for disease control; (c) potential alternative safe exposure limits for certain facilities, including but  
11 not limited to schools, hospitals, child care facilities and nursing homes; (d) other states efforts to address  
12 the health effects of toxic mold, including regulations and pending legislation; and (e) standards for safe  
13 indoor exposure limits and draft regulations for the establishment and enforcement of safe indoor  
14 exposure limits to toxic mold in public and private buildings in Massachusetts, including private  
15 residences.

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17 SECTION 2. The task force shall consist of up to 2 representatives from each of the following offices:  
18 the department of public health, one of whom shall be from the bureau of environmental health  
19 assessment, the department of environmental protection, the division of occupational safety, and the board  
20 of building regulations and standards; 6 members of the legislature, 2 to be appointed by the president of  
21 the senate, 2 to be appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives, 1 to be appointed by the  
22 minority leader of the senate and one to be appointed by the minority leader of the house of  
23 representatives; and one community liaison to be appointed by the Governor. The task force shall also  
24 include five representatives to be chosen from among the following groups: health experts, medical  
25 experts, mold abatement experts, and affected industries, including but not limited to forest products, real  
26 estate agents, and residential, commercial and industrial tenants, proprietors, landlords, insurers and  
27 builders. The task force may consult with other government agencies, both federal and state, as well as  
28 members of the scientific community and other consultants.

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30 SECTION 3. The task force shall submit a report, including any draft standards and regulations or an  
31 explanation of why such standards and regulations were not found to be feasible, to the joint committee  
32 on public health and the joint committee on consumer protection and professional licensure within 6  
33 months following the passage of this act.