

SENATE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Moore, Richard (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:

Resolve Relative to the Prevention of Falls in the Elderly Community

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Moore, Richard (SEN)

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Worcester and Norfolk

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

RESOLVE

Resolved,

1 That there shall be a special commission on falls preventions to make an investigation
2 and comprehensive study of the effects of falls on older adults and the potential for reducing the
3 number of falls of older adults. The commission shall consist of 4 members of the senate, 1 of
4 whom shall be the senate chairperson of the joint committee on health care financing, 1 of whom
5 shall be the senate chairperson of the joint committee on elder affairs, 1 of whom shall be a
6 member of the majority party to be appointed by the president of the senate and 1 of whom shall
7 be a member of the minority party to be appointed by the minority leader of the senate; 4
8 members of the house of representatives, 1 of whom shall be the house chairperson of the joint
9 committee on health care financing, 1 of whom shall be the house chairperson of the joint
10 committee on elder affairs, 1 of whom shall be a member of the majority party to be appointed
11 by the speaker of the house of representatives and 1 of whom shall be a member of the minority
12 party to be appointed by the minority leader of the house of representatives, the secretary of the
13 executive office of health and human services or his designee, the commissioner of the
14 department of public health or his designee, the secretary of the executive office of elder affairs
15 or his designee, the director of MassHealth or his designee; and 6 members appointed by the
16 Governor, 1 of whom shall be a designee from the Home Care Alliance of Massachusetts, 1 of
17 whom shall be a designee from the American Association of Retired Persons, 1 of whom shall be

18 a designee from the Massachusetts Extended Care Federation, 1 of whom shall be a designee
19 from the Massachusetts Councils on Aging, 1 of whom shall be a designee from the
20 Massachusetts Medical Society, and 1 of whom shall be a designee of the Massachusetts
21 Pharmacists Association.

22 The Commission on Falls Prevention shall conduct a review of the effects of falls of older adults
23 on health care costs, the potential for reducing the number of falls of older adults and the most
24 effective strategies for reducing falls and health care costs associated with falls. The commission
25 shall:

26 1. Consider strategies to improve data collection and analysis to identify fall risk, health care
27 cost data and protective factors;

28 2. Consider strategies to improve the identification of older adults who have a high risk of
29 falling;

30 3. Consider strategies to maximize the dissemination of proven, effective fall prevention
31 interventions and identify barriers to those interventions;

32 4. Assess the risk and measure the incidence of falls occurring in various settings;

33 5. Identify evidence-based strategies used by long-term care providers to reduce the rate of
34 falls among older adults and reduce the rate of hospitalizations related to falls.

35 6. Identify evidence-based community programs designed to prevent falls among older adults;

36 7. Review falls prevention initiatives for community-based settings; and

37 8. Examine the components and key elements of the above falls prevention initiatives, consider
38 their applicability in Massachusetts and develop strategies for pilot testing, implementation and
39 evaluation.

40 The Commission on Falls Prevention shall submit a report to the secretary of health and human
41 services and the joint committee on health care financing, no later than November 2, 2009, that
42 includes findings from their review, recommendations and suggested legislation. The report must
43 include recommendations for:

44 1. A statewide demonstration project assessing the utility of targeted fall risk screening and
45 referral programs;

46 2. Intervention approaches, including physical activity, medication assessment and reduction of
47 medication when possible, vision enhancement and home-modification strategies;

48 3. Strategies that promote collaboration between the medical community, including physicians,
49 long-term care providers, and pharmacist to reduce the rate of falls among their patients;

50 4. Programs that are targeted to fall victims who are at a high risk for 2nd falls and that are
51 designed to maximize independence and quality of life for older adults, particularly those older
52 adults with functional limitations;

53 5. Programs that encourage partnerships to prevent falls among older adults and prevent or
54 reduce injuries when falls occur; and

55 6. Programs to encourage long-term care providers in Massachusetts to implement falls
56 prevention strategies which use specific interventions to help all patients avoid the risks for
57 falling in an effort to reduce hospitalizations and prolong a high quality of life.