

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 1876**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***Tricia Farley-Bouvier***

*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 adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act creating a commission to study concussions that occur as a result of varsity sports in public and private high schools.

PETITION OF:

| NAME:                        | DISTRICT/ADDRESS:                     |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <i>Tricia Farley-Bouvier</i> | <i>3rd Berkshire</i>                  |
| <i>Brian M. Ashe</i>         | <i>2nd Hampden</i>                    |
| <i>Ruth B. Balsler</i>       | <i>12th Middlesex</i>                 |
| <i>Sean Garballey</i>        | <i>23rd Middlesex</i>                 |
| <i>Colleen M. Garry</i>      | <i>36th Middlesex</i>                 |
| <i>James K. Hawkins</i>      | <i>2nd Bristol</i>                    |
| <i>Louis L. Kafka</i>        | <i>8th Norfolk</i>                    |
| <i>Rebecca L. Rausch</i>     | <i>Norfolk, Bristol and Middlesex</i> |
| <i>David M. Rogers</i>       | <i>24th Middlesex</i>                 |

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 1876**

By Ms. Farley-Bouvier of Pittsfield, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1876) of Tricia Farley-Bouvier and others for an investigation by a special commission to study concussions that occur as a result of varsity sports in public and private high schools. Public Health.

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court  
(2019-2020)**

An Act creating a commission to study concussions that occur as a result of varsity sports in public and private high schools.

*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. There is hereby established a special commission to study concussions that  
2 occur as a result of varsity sports in public and private high schools. The commission shall  
3 consist of 9 members, one of whom shall be the commissioner of public health or designee, who  
4 shall serve as chair, 1 of whom shall be a representative of the Brain Injury Association of  
5 Massachusetts; 1 of whom shall be a representative of the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic  
6 Association; 1 of whom shall be a representative of the Athletic Trainers of Massachusetts; and 5  
7 of whom shall be appointed by the Governor, 1 of whom shall be a physician with expertise in  
8 the management of sports-related concussions; 1 of whom shall be a researcher specializing in  
9 the study of the long-term consequences of brain trauma; 1 of whom is a professional whose  
10 primary responsibility is that of athletic director at a Massachusetts high school; and 1 of whom  
11 is a representative of private school athletic programs in Massachusetts. In appointing members  
12 of the commission, consideration shall be given to race, gender and geographic diversity.

13           The commission shall: (i) analyze current data on the prevalence and causes of sports-  
14 related concussions; (ii) review the rules associated with each sport and safety policies currently  
15 in effect with respect to each such sport; and (iii) study the cost and effectiveness of baseline  
16 concussion testing of athletes

17           The commission shall make recommendations regarding: (i) methods of reducing and  
18 preventing concussions; (ii) procedures to be employed by schools to identify and respond to  
19 occurrences of concussions; (iii) whether baseline concussion testing should be required for  
20 students participating in high school athletics; (iv) any legislation the commission deems  
21 necessary to effect its recommendations; and (v) Review educational standards and materials on  
22 concussions and long-term consequences of brain trauma

23           The commission shall submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the joint  
24 committee on public health no later than May 1, 2020. The commission shall also submit a  
25 preliminary report of its findings and recommendations with the committee on or before  
26 December 1, 2019.