

**SENATE . . . . . No. 1877**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***Jason M. Lewis***

*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 resolve:

Resolve providing for the creation of a special commission relative to the seal and motto of the Commonwealth.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Jason M. Lewis</i>	<i>Fifth Middlesex</i>	
<i>Joanne M. Comerford</i>	<i>Hampshire, Franklin and Worcester</i>	<i>1/22/2019</i>
<i>Jack Patrick Lewis</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/22/2019</i>
<i>Maria Duaine Robinson</i>	<i>6th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/24/2019</i>
<i>Mike Connolly</i>	<i>26th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/28/2019</i>
<i>William N. Brownsberger</i>	<i>Second Suffolk and Middlesex</i>	<i>1/30/2019</i>
<i>Thomas M. Stanley</i>	<i>9th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/30/2019</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	<i>1/30/2019</i>
<i>Adam G. Hinds</i>	<i>Berkshire, Hampshire, Franklin and Hampden</i>	<i>1/30/2019</i>
<i>Brendan P. Crighton</i>	<i>Third Essex</i>	<i>2/1/2019</i>
<i>Patricia D. Jehlen</i>	<i>Second Middlesex</i>	<i>2/1/2019</i>
<i>Michael J. Barrett</i>	<i>Third Middlesex</i>	<i>2/1/2019</i>
<i>Rebecca L. Rausch</i>	<i>Norfolk, Bristol and Middlesex</i>	<i>2/1/2019</i>
<i>Elizabeth A. Malia</i>	<i>11th Suffolk</i>	<i>2/1/2019</i>
<i>Nick Collins</i>	<i>First Suffolk</i>	<i>2/1/2019</i>



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By Mr. Lewis, a petition (accompanied by resolve, Senate, No. 1877) of Jason M. Lewis, Joanne M. Comerford, Jack Patrick Lewis, Maria Duaine Robinson and other members of the General Court for legislation to provide for the creation of a special commission relative to the seal and motto of the Commonwealth. State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.

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[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE HOUSE, NO. 1707 OF 2017-2018.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

—————  
**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court  
(2019-2020)**  
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Resolve providing for the creation of a special commission relative to the seal and motto of the Commonwealth.

1           **Resolved**, that a special commission is hereby established (1) for the purpose of  
2   investigating the features of the official seal and motto of the Commonwealth including those  
3   which potentially have been unwittingly harmful to or misunderstood by the citizens of the  
4   Commonwealth and (2) for the purpose of examining the seal and motto of the Commonwealth  
5   to ensure that they faithfully reflect and embody the historic and contemporary commitments of  
6   the commonwealth to peace, justice, liberty and equality and to spreading the opportunities and  
7   advantages of education.

8           The Commission shall make recommendations regarding a revised or new design of the  
9   seal of the Commonwealth and a revised or new motto of the Commonwealth, as described in

10 sections 2 to 6 of chapter 2, inclusive and shall propose and design an educational program on  
11 the history and meaning of the seal and motto.

12 The Commission shall consist of: the Executive Director of the Commission on Indian  
13 Affairs, who shall serve as the chair; 5 members appointed by the Commission on Indian affairs  
14 who are of lineal descent from tribes with government to government relations by Acts or  
15 Resolves of the General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; the Secretary of the  
16 Commonwealth or a designee; the Executive Director of the Massachusetts Historical  
17 Commission or a designee; the Executive Director of the Council on Arts and Humanities or a  
18 designee; the chair of the Massachusetts Arts Commission or a designee; the Chair of the Mass  
19 Cultural Council, the House and Senate chairs of the Joint Committee on State Administration  
20 and Regulatory Authority, and 2 persons who shall be appointed by the governor.

21 The Commission shall submit a detailed report with its proposals and recommendations  
22 along with drafts of legislation necessary to carry its recommendations into effect to the Clerks  
23 of the House of Representatives and Senate, the House and Senate chairs of the Joint Committee  
24 on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight, and the governor, no later than December 2,  
25 2020. The Clerks of the House of Representatives and Senate shall make the report available to  
26 the public via the internet. The Commission shall not receive funds appropriated by the  
27 Commonwealth, provided, however, that they may seek, accept and expend any grants or gifts of  
28 money, professional services, consultant services, clerical and other services and supplies from  
29 the federal government or any other private or public source in the course of its investigation and  
30 study. The appointment of the commissioners shall occur within 60 days after the effective date  
31 of this resolve. The special commission shall dissolve 60 days after the submission of the report,  
32 unless upon a  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote of the Commission, a continuance is deemed necessary to complete the

- 33 purpose of the Commission. The time frame of said continuance must be specified in the motion
- 34 to extend time of operation.