

Special Commission on Childhood Vision and Eye Health

SECTION 135. There shall be established a special commission to study and report on childhood vision and eye health in the commonwealth. The commission shall study children's vision care and quality, including (i) vision screening, (ii) eye examinations and appropriate preventative measures and (iii) develop recommendations for ensuring screenings for all children. The commission shall review the commonwealth's success at preventative measures, including screening, and treating all of its children for vision impairments and eye disease and identify populations that do not receive screening, eye examinations or necessary related treatments. The commission shall consist of the commissioner of the department of public health, or a designee, who shall serve as chair; the commissioner of the department of elementary and secondary education, or a designee; the commissioner of early education and care, or a designee; the house and senate chairs of the joint committee on public health, or their designees; 2 members of the Children's Vision Massachusetts Coalition; 1 member of the Massachusetts school nurse organization, Inc.; a member of the Massachusetts Society of Optometrists, Inc.; 1 member of the Massachusetts Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons, Inc.; and 1 member of the Massachusetts Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. The commission shall submit a report, along with any recommendations for legislation, to the clerks of the house of representatives and senate, the house and senate chairs of the joint committee on health care financing, and the house and senate chairs of the joint committee on public health on or before February 1, 2018.

Commission Membership

Commissioner of the department of public health, or a designee, who shall serve as chair

Commissioner Monica Bharel

Designee: Craig Andrade

Commissioner of the department of elementary and secondary education, or a designee

Acting Commissioner Jeff Wulfson

Designee: Emily M. Taylor

Commissioner of early education and care, or a designee

Commissioner Thomas Weber

Designee: Carol Nolan

House chair of the joint committee on public health, or a designee

Representative Kate Hogan

Designee: Congresswomen Christine P. Barber

Senate chair of the joint committee on public health, or a designee

Senator Jason Lewis

Designee: Sen. Michael O. Moore

2 members of the Children's Vision Massachusetts Coalition

Designee #1: Bruce Moore, OD, Professor Emeritus, New England College of Optometry

Designee #2: Kathy Majzoub

1 member of the Massachusetts school nurse organization, Inc.

Contact: Carilyn Rains (Past President and Interim)

Designee: Shanyn Toulouse

1 member of the Massachusetts Society of Optometrists, Inc.

Contact: Executive Director, Jay Gardiner

Designee: Catherine Johnson, OD, Specialized Pediatric Eye Care, 77 Herrick St, Unit 102, Beverly, MA, 01915, P: 978-338-4321

1 member of the Massachusetts Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons, Inc.

Contact: Executive Director, Jen Chen jchen@mseps.org

Designee: Jean Ramsey, MD, MPH, Associate Professor of Ophthalmology and Pediatrics, Boston University School of Medicine

1 member of the Massachusetts Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Contact: Executive Director, Cathleen Haggerty

Designee: Sarah Andrew, MD, Wilmington Pediatrics, 500 Salem Street, Wilmington, MA 01887
office telephone: 978-988-6200