

HD455 Fact Sheet

Resolve providing for an investigation and study by a special commission relative to the existential threat posed by nuclear weapons to the commonwealth of Massachusetts

Issue Background

The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons was created by the United Nations with overwhelming international support. It went into effect on January 22, 2021. Under international law, it prohibits the production, acquisition, and use of nuclear weapons.

The United States has not yet signed this treaty, but Massachusetts can become the first state to formally commit itself to the reduction of nuclear arms. Creating a Nuclear Weapons Commission is a vital first step towards bringing the Commonwealth into alignment with the rest of the world on the issue of nuclear weapons.

Bill Summary

House Resolve 455 would establish a citizen's commission for the purpose of researching how the Commonwealth is currently in violation of the treaty. The commission would create a time-bound plan for bringing Massachusetts into alignment with the treaty. It would then recommend this plan to the citizens and legislature of the Commonwealth for their approval at a future date.

Commission Members

The commission will consist of 11 United States citizens who are residents of Massachusetts:

- 1 representative appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;
- 1 representative appointed by the Senate President;
- 1 representative appointed by the Secretary of the Commonwealth;
- 1 representative appointed by the Attorney General;
- 7 representatives appointed by the Governor, of whom 6 shall be selected from a group of 10 individuals nominated by Massachusetts Peace Action, Inc.
- All appointments will be made from a list of applicants who have publicly applied to the commission for an appointment.

Bill Supporters

This bill is supported by:

Massachusetts Peace Action

Nuclear Ban