

**SENATE . . . . . No. 1707**

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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PRESENTED BY:

***Thomas P. Kennedy***

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*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:

An Act to improve Indian representation within the Commission of Indian Affairs.

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PETITION OF:

NAME:

*Thomas P. Kennedy*

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

*[District]*

**SENATE . . . . . No. 1707**

By Mr. Kennedy, petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1707) of Kennedy for legislation to improve Indian representation within the Commission of Indian Affairs [Joint Committee on Tourism, Arts and Cultural Development].

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION

SEE

□ □ SENATE  
□ , NO. 1871 OF 2009-2010.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

An Act to improve Indian representation within the Commission of Indian Affairs.

*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. Chapter 6A of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2000 Official Edition,  
2 is hereby amended by striking out in its entirety section 8A and inserting in place thereof the  
3 following new section:—

4 Section 8A. There shall be in the department of housing and community development a  
5 commission on Indian affairs. The commission, appointed by the governor, shall consist of  
6 eleven members all of whom shall be of American Indian descent. Of the eleven members, so  
7 appointed, six shall be a member of and represent one of the American Indian major tribal  
8 groups of Massachusetts listed herein. The remaining membership of said commission shall be  
9 made up of five members, selected at large, each of whom shall represent one of the Indian  
10 groups other than the six major tribal groups aforementioned, based on the Massachusetts Indian  
11 population as documented by the most recent United State Census. Each member of said  
12 commission shall serve for a term of three years.

13 In order to insure equitable representation on said commission for all residents of the  
14 commonwealth who are of American Indian descent, no one American Indian tribe, group,  
15 subgroup, or organization, shall be granted more than one appointment to, or hold position on,  
16 said commission. Of the five commission members at-large, no more than one commission  
17 member shall reside in the same county as, nor represent, any one of the six tribal groups as  
18 described in this act.

19 This commonwealth recognizes the following American Indian major tribal groups as  
20 being located within the commonwealth as on record with the United States Interior Department-  
21 Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA): Mashpee Wampanoag (BIA#15); Nipmuck Nation-  
22 Hassanamisco Band (BIA #69a); Nipmuck Nation-ChaubunagungamaudBand (BIA #69b);  
23 Wampanoag Tribal Council of Gay Head (BIA #76); Cowasuck Band- Pennacook/Abenaki  
24 People (BIA #151); and Pocasset Wampanoag Indian Tribe (BIA #153).

25 Said commission shall meet at least four times annually, but may meet as often as it  
26 deems necessary for the proper conduct of its affairs, and may elect from its membership a  
27 chairman and such other officers as required. The chairman and each officer shall serve for a  
28 term of one year.

29 The commission shall investigate problems common to American Indian residents of the  
30 commonwealth and to all residents of American Indian descent. It shall assist tribal councils,  
31 American Indian organizations and individuals in their dealing with agencies of state and local  
32 government, assist with social services, education, employment opportunities, health, housing  
33 problems, civil rights, legal aid, treaties, taking of census of American Indian residents, and any  
34 other rights or services concerning American Indian residents of the commonwealth.

35 The commission may make recommendations to the secretary of administration and  
36 finance concerning programs and policies that will best serve the interest of the American Indian  
37 residents of the commonwealth and shall make an annual report of its activities to said secretary  
38 and file a copy thereof with the clerks of the senate and the house of representatives on or before  
39 the last Wednesday in January each year.

40 Said commission shall provide for the burial expenses, up to three hundred dollars, for  
41 the remains of any person whose previously unknown grave has been disturbed, forcing its  
42 relocation, and whose identity has been determined by the state archaeologist to be an American  
43 Indian.