

HOUSE No. 199

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Nine

Resolve [Title].

1 **Resolved**, That a special commission is hereby established for the purpose of
2 investigating, devising and recommending statewide strategies to create and expand opportunity
3 in low-opportunity communities. The commission shall consist of 3 members of the senate, two
4 of whom shall be appointed by the senate president and one to be appointed by the senate
5 minority leader; 3 members of the house of representatives, two of whom shall be appointed by
6 the speaker and one of whom to be appointed by the house minority leader; the assistant
7 secretary for access and opportunity; the secretary for health and human services or her designee;
8 the undersecretary of the department of housing and community development or her designee;
9 the commissioner of the department of transitional assistance or her designee; the secretary of
10 labor and workforce development or her designee; the secretary of education or his designee; 2
11 mayors, town managers or chairs of boards of selectmen or their designees nominated by the
12 Massachusetts Municipal Association; 2 directors of community action agencies or their
13 designees as nominated by the Massachusetts Association for Community Action; 2 directors of
14 community development corporations or their designees as nominated by the Massachusetts
15 Association of Community Development Corporations; and 4 persons to be appointed by the
16 governor, three of whom shall be representatives from academic institutions, and a member

17 whom shall be from an organization providing legal services to low-income people. The
18 governor shall designate a member of the commission to serve as one co-chairperson and the
19 members of the commission shall elect a member of the commission to serve as one co-
20 chairperson.

21 The commission shall develop a comprehensive strategy to create, foster and expand
22 opportunity in low-opportunity communities, including a consensus budget proposal, capable of
23 being implemented over a 5 year period, with a focus on the collaboration of the department of
24 housing and community development, the executive office of health and human services, the
25 executive office of education and other state agencies, departments, and quasi-public entities in
26 the planning and distribution of resources that will create coordinated efforts to expand
27 opportunity, reduce the incidence of poverty, develop jobs and economic opportunities,
28 transportation, and provide other appropriate services.

29 The commission shall file its strategic plan, including a timeline for implementation, cost
30 estimates and finance mechanisms and its recommendations, and its budget proposals together
31 with drafts of legislation and regulations, if any, necessary to carry out its recommendations with
32 the clerks of the senate and the house of representatives, the joint committee on children and
33 families, the joint committee on housing, the joint committee on education, the joint committee
34 on community development and small business, and the senate and house committees on ways
35 and means not later than June 30, 2009.