

HOUSE No. 341

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Nine

An Act Providing for the Creation of a Special Commission Relative to the Impact on the Commonwealth of Massachusetts of the International Trade and Investment Agreements..

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 Chapter 3 of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the following section:--

2 Section 69. A permanent special commission is hereby established for the purpose of
3 evaluating the continuing impacts on state laws and regulations by international trade policy and
4 international trade agreements, examining proposed international trade agreements, maintaining
5 active communications with any individual or entity, as the commission determines appropriate,
6 regarding ongoing developments in international trade agreements and policy; and examining
7 any aspects of international trade, international economic integration and international trade
8 agreements that the members of the commission consider appropriate. An “international trade
9 agreement” is defined as any international trade or investment agreement or treaty, including but
10 not limited to, the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), the Central American Free
11 Trade Agreement (CAFTA), and agreements concluded by the World Trade Organization
12 (WTO).

13 Said Commission shall engage in at least one public hearing annually and shall report on
14 the economic and sovereignty impacts of international trade agreements on the Commonwealth
15 of Massachusetts. Such report may include recommendations of support or opposition of
16 revisions in United States trade policy or commitments, including but not limited to proposed
17 international trade agreements. This annual report shall be transmitted to the General Court, the
18 Governor, the Attorney General of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; to federal officials,
19 including the United States Trade Representative and members of the Massachusetts
20 Congressional delegation.

21 Said commission shall consist of 3 members of the Senate of the General Court, 3
22 members of the House of Representatives of the General Court, the Governor or his designee, the
23 Attorney General or her designee, the Treasurer or his designee, a representative from the Office
24 of International Trade & Investment, and 9 persons appointed by the Governor, one of whom
25 shall be a representative of organized labor, one of whom shall represent small business, one of
26 whom shall be a representative from a human rights organization, one of whom shall represent
27 farmers, one of whom shall be a representative from an environmental group, one of whom shall
28 be a representative of the Massachusetts Municipal Association, one of whom shall be engaged
29 in the business of exporting goods internationally, one of whom shall be a member of a graduate
30 faculty of law, with expertise in issues of constitutional federalism, of a private university in the
31 commonwealth, and one of whom shall be a member of a graduate faculty of economics or labor
32 studies of the University of Massachusetts.