

**SENATE . . . . . No. 1867**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**In the Year Two Thousand Nine**  
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An Act creating the Commonwealth Heritage Areas Program..

*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. The general laws are hereby amended in chapter 9 by inserting after section  
2 26C the following section:-

3 Section 26C ½. The Commonwealth Heritage Area Program

4 (1) Definitions. As used in this section, the following term shall have the following  
5 meaning:-

6 “Commonwealth Heritage Area” shall mean a large geographical region or corridor of the  
7 Commonwealth that preserve, enhance and promote natural, recreational, cultural and scenic  
8 resources for heritage conservation, tourism and economic development. Those areas of the  
9 Commonwealth encompassed within recognized National Heritage Areas will so be designated  
10 as a Commonwealth Heritage Area.

11 (2) There shall be a Commonwealth Heritage Area Program to recognize the significant  
12 national resources such designated areas preserve and enhance, and that those resources are  
13 equally important to the heritage of the state.

14           (3) The program shall administer, in conjunction with, or in addition to, existing Federal  
15 grant programs and State programs for grants and loans to local government, municipal  
16 authority, and nonprofit organizations for community and regional projects involving the  
17 planning, acquisition, rehabilitation and development of public park, recreation and conservation  
18 areas, facilities and programs within the designated Commonwealth Heritage Area.

19           (4) The commission shall develop partnerships with the Commonwealth Heritage Areas  
20 to preserve national heritage and encourage compatible economic activities while maximizing  
21 scarce resources, including but not limited to environmental protection, heritage resource  
22 preservation, recreation, tourism promotion and signage.

23           (5) The commission shall promulgate regulations, in consultation with the executive  
24 office of energy and environmental affairs, the Massachusetts office of travel and tourism, and  
25 the Massachusetts cultural council to implement this section.