

SENATE No. 1599

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Richard T. Moore

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 adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act establishing the Commission on Government Accountability, Economy, and Efficiency.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Richard T. Moore</i>	
<i>Cory Atkins</i>	<i>14th Middlesex</i>
<i>Steven A. Baddour</i>	
<i>Carolyn C. Dykema</i>	<i>8th Middlesex</i>
<i>John V. Fernandes</i>	<i>10th Worcester</i>
<i>Michael R. Knapik</i>	
<i>Jason M. Lewis</i>	<i>31st Middlesex</i>
<i>Thomas M. Stanley</i>	<i>9th Middlesex</i>
<i>James E. Timilty</i>	

SENATE No. 1599

By Mr. Moore, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1599) of Richard T. Moore, Cory Atkins, Steven A. Baddour, Carolyn C. Dykema and other members of the General Court for legislation to establish the Commission on Government Accountability, Economy, and Efficiency. State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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In the Year Two Thousand Eleven
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An Act establishing the Commission on Government Accountability, Economy, and Efficiency.

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. Establishment.

2 There is hereby established a special commission to investigate and study methods of
3 improving the accountability, economy and efficiency of the government of the Commonwealth
4 and the operation of its agencies, departments, instrumentalities, and political subdivisions,
5 hereinafter referred to as “the commission”.

6 SECTION 2. Purpose.

7 The purpose of the commission shall be to make recommendations to the Governor and
8 the General Court to promote economy, efficiency, and improved service in the transaction of
9 the public business in the various departments, agencies, instrumentalities and political
10 subdivisions in the executive, legislative and judicial branches of state and local government, and
11 in making the operation of all state departments, agencies, and instrumentalities, and local

12 government and all expenditures of public funds, more directly responsive to the needs of the
13 Commonwealth and its political subdivisions, by any or all of the following means:

14 (a) By adopting methods and procedures for reducing expenditures to the
15 lowest amount consistent with the efficient performance of essential services, activities and
16 functions.

17 (b) By eliminating duplication and overlapping services, activities, and
18 functions, and time-consuming or wasteful practices.

19 (c) By consolidating services, activities, and functions of a similar nature.

20 (d) By abolishing services, activities, and functions not necessary to the
21 efficient conduct of state or local government.

22 (e) By the elimination of unnecessary departments and agencies, the creation of
23 necessary new departments and agencies, the reorganization of existing departments and
24 agencies, and the transfer of functions and responsibilities among departments and agencies.

25 (f) By defining or redefining duties and responsibilities of state or local
26 officers.

27 (g) By revising present provisions for continuing or permanent appropriations
28 of state funds or bond authorizations, for whatever purpose, by eliminating any such existing
29 provisions and by adopting new provisions.

30 (h) By establishing means for performance measurement and methods of
31 reporting such measurement.

32 (i) Reorganizing all aspects of career public service including, but not limited
33 to, methods of recruitment and retention of public employees; training and re-training of public
34 employees; job classification, salaries and benefits of public employees; discipline and
35 termination of public employees, clarifying the state responsibilities and functions that are best
36 served by regular public employees and those best served by contract employees; and
37 encouraging and facilitating opportunities for private sector and non-profit sector employees to
38 work in state or local government for limited periods of time.

39 (j) By analyzing and evaluating all state and local contracts with private
40 vendors for the purpose of confirming that all contracted approaches to the delivery of goods and
41 services are accountable, economical, and efficient.

42 (k) To review state requirements for contracting for goods and services and for
43 the retention of professional services to determine the most effective means of determining the
44 most qualified vendor, including but not limited to, a review of the method by which state and
45 local agencies, state authorities, boards and commissions retain legal counsel, accounting,
46 architectural and engineering services.

47 SECTION 3. Membership.

48 The commission shall be comprised of the following members, each of whom shall serve
49 at the pleasure of the appointing authority:

50 (a) Seven members appointed by the Governor. Not more than four of such
51 members shall be registered voters in the same political party, and none shall hold public office
52 in the executive branch of the state government. Two of the seven shall have expertise in the
53 management of municipal government and one shall have expertise in managing a major not for

54 profit agency. Appointments shall include, but not be limited to, Massachusetts residents in the
55 fields of business and government management, accounting, labor relations, finance, human
56 relations or academic fields including, but not limited to, deans of schools of business or public
57 administration.

58 (b) Three members of the Massachusetts Senate who shall be the Senate Chair
59 of Ways and Means, the Chair of the Senate Committee on Post Audit and Oversight, and one
60 member designated by the Senate Minority Leader.

61 (c) Three members of the Massachusetts House of Representatives who shall be
62 the House Chair of Ways and Means, the Chair of the House Committee on Post Audit and
63 Oversight, and one member designated by the House Minority Leader.

64 (d) The Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House,
65 who shall jointly designate the chair or co-chairs of the Special Commission, shall each serve on
66 the Task Force, ex- officio.

67 (e) The Auditor of the Commonwealth and the Inspector General of the
68 Commonwealth, ex-officio.

69 SECTION 4. Meetings and Reports.

70 The Commission shall meet not less than quarterly and shall have the authority,
71 subject to the approval of the Secretary of Administration and Finance, to request staff support
72 and research from state agencies to carry out its responsibilities. The Commission may seek
73 assistance from other organizations or individuals on a pro bono basis. The Commission shall
74 file annual reports with the Clerk of the Senate and the Clerk of the House of Representatives

75 and shall make a final report not later than June 30, 2012 unless revived and continued for a
76 longer period of time by the General Court. The Commission may make interim reports as
77 appropriate in order to address the serious fiscal problems facing the Commonwealth in the next
78 few years.

79 In particular, the Commission shall examine the feasibility of developing one or
80 more pilot projects for the development and use of the Baldrige National Quality Program
81 criteria by selected agencies to improve their capabilities and results, as well as to increase their
82 sustainability. The objective of each said Baldrige Pilot Project is to help the participating
83 agency to learn about and implement a framework of robust systems and processes that will
84 enable them to withstand harsh budget conditions and continue to offer essential public services
85 in a cost-effective manner. A pilot project shall demonstrate the business case for improved
86 results in service delivery using the Baldrige Criteria as set forth by the National Institute of
87 Standards and Technology (NIST), including alignment of agency goals with key systems and
88 processes such as strategic planning, training of managers and staff in the principles of the
89 criteria, attention to stakeholder satisfaction, complaint management and resolution, process
90 management, succession planning, learning and development, and evaluation of programs.