

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 284

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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PRESENTED BY:

*Tackey Chan*

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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 adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act investigating the economic impact of certain Massachusetts laws.

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PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Tackey Chan</i>	<i>2nd Norfolk</i>	<i>1/15/2015</i>
<i>Stephen L. DiNatale</i>	<i>3rd Worcester</i>	<i>2/3/2015</i>

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 284

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By Mr. Chan of Quincy, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 284) of Tackey Chan and Stephen L. DiNatale for an investigation by a special commission (including members of the General Court) relative to the economic impact of minimum pricing laws on businesses and residents in the Commonwealth. Economic Development and Emerging Technologies.

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court  
(2015-2016)  
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An Act investigating the economic impact of certain Massachusetts laws.

*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. (a) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, there is  
2 hereby created a commission that shall investigate the economic impact of the Commonwealth's  
3 minimum pricing laws on businesses and residents within the Commonwealth. The commission  
4 shall analyze the additional costs, if any, incurred by Massachusetts residents as compared to  
5 businesses and residents of neighboring states.

6           (b) The commission shall consist of the secretary of the executive office of administration  
7 and finance or his designee; the commissioner of the department of revenue or his designee; the  
8 director of the department of agriculture or his designee; the treasurer or his designee; the  
9 attorney general or his designee; the house and senate chairs of the joint committee on revenue,  
10 who shall co-chair the commission; a representative of an association representing retailers; a  
11 representative of a business association; a representative appointed by the Governor from each of  
12 the industries currently impacted by minimum pricing laws, including the dairy, alcohol and

tobacco industries; an individual with an expertise in finance or consumer economics; a representative of a health policy organization; and a representative of a public safety advocacy organization as appointed by the Governor. The commission shall adopt rules and establish procedures it considers necessary for the conduct of its business. No action of the commission shall be considered official unless approved by a majority vote of the commission members.

(c) In the course of its investigation, the commission shall: (1) examine the minimum pricing laws in existence in the Commonwealth and the purpose behind their initial creation; (2) examine the minimum pricing laws in existence in the Commonwealth's neighboring states, if any; (3) provide an analysis of the impact of the Commonwealth's minimum pricing laws on the cost and price of products so regulated; (4) provide an analysis of the impact of the neighboring states' minimum pricing laws on the cost and price of products so regulated; (5) develop recommendations as to whether the Commonwealth's minimum pricing laws continue to serve their original purpose and whether such laws put the Commonwealth and its businesses and residents at a competitive disadvantage as compared to neighboring states; (6) determine whether the Commonwealth's minimum pricing laws benefit certain businesses as opposed to others by creating subsidies of unnecessarily large profit.

(d) The commission may hold public hearings to assist in the collection and evaluation of data and testimony.

(e) Any research, analysis or other staff support that the commission reasonably requires shall be provided by the executive office of administration and finance and its agencies.

(f) The commission shall prepare a written report detailing its findings and recommendations, together with drafts of legislation, as may be necessary to carry those

35 recommendations into effect. The commission shall submit its initial report to the governor, the  
36 secretary of the executive office of administration and finance, the clerks of the senate and house  
37 of representatives, the chairs of the house and senate committees on ways and means and the  
38 joint committee on revenue not later than 1 year after the effective date of this act.