

HOUSE No. 4767

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, December 15, 2016.

The committee on Ways and Means to whom was referred the Bill establishing an Eastern Regional Commission on the status of Women and girls (House, No. 3463, changed), reports recommending that the same ought to pass with an amendment substituting therefor the accompanying bill (House, No. 4767).

For the committee,

BRIAN S. DEMPSEY.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court
(2015-2016)**

An Act establishing an Eastern Regional Commission on the status of Women and girls.

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) There shall be an Eastern Regional commission on the status of women
2 which shall consist of 9 persons to be appointed by the commission on the status of women
3 established in section 66 of chapter 3 of the General Laws. The Eastern Regional commission
4 shall conduct an ongoing study of all matters concerning women in Eastern Regional
5 communities. The Eastern Regional commission shall report its findings to the commission on
6 the status of women annually, not later than June 2, and shall recommend solutions to the
7 problems facing women in Eastern Regional communities. The commission on the status of
8 women shall make appointments to the Eastern Regional commission from a pool of applicants
9 who reside in Eastern Regional communities. For the purpose of this act, “Eastern Regional
10 communities” shall include: the towns of Avon, Brookline, Canton, Cohasset, Dedham,
11 Foxborough, Holbrook, Hull, Milton, Plainville, Sharon, Stoughton, and Westwood, and the
12 cities of Boston, Braintree, Chelsea, Quincy, Randolph, Revere, Weymouth, and Winthrop.

13 (b) Members shall serve for 3-year terms and shall continue in office until their
14 successors are appointed. Members shall not be reappointed for more than 2 consecutive terms;

15 provided, however, that former members may reapply to serve on the commission after 1 year
16 has passed since their last term. Of the initial members appointed to the Eastern Regional
17 commission on the status of women, 3 members shall be appointed for a term of 1 year, 3
18 members shall be appointed for a term of 2 years, and 3 members shall be appointed for a term of
19 3 years.

20 (c) Vacancies in the membership of the Eastern Regional commission on the status of
21 women shall be filled by the commission on the status of women for the balance of the unexpired
22 term.

23 (d) In making appointments to the Eastern Regional commission on the status of women,
24 the commission on the status of women shall consult with women's organizations. Nominations
25 shall be solicited between August 1 and September 16 annually through an open application that
26 is widely distributed throughout the Eastern Regional communities. Members of the commission
27 shall be diverse and represent different Eastern Regional communities.

28 (e) Members shall serve on the Eastern Regional commission on the status of women as
29 volunteers and shall not be compensated.

30 (f) The Eastern Regional commission on the status of women shall elect from among its
31 members a chair, a vice chair, a treasurer, and any other officers as it deems necessary.

32 (g) The Eastern Regional commission on the status of women shall meet at least 4 times
33 a year, at the members' discretion. Members of the commission on the status of women may
34 attend the meetings of the Eastern Regional commission on the status of women.

35 (h) The Eastern Regional commission on the status of women may accept and solicit
36 funds, including any gifts, donations, grants or bequests and federal funds for any of the purposes
37 of this act. The funds shall be deposited in a separate account to be expended at the discretion of
38 the commission.

39 (i) The Eastern Regional commission on the status of women may: (i) use voluntary and
40 uncompensated services of private individuals, agencies and organizations as may, from time to
41 time, be offered or required; (ii) recommend policies and make recommendations to state and
42 local agencies and officers to effectuate the purposes of the commission; (iii) enact by-laws for
43 its own governance; (iv) hold regular public meetings, conduct fact-finding hearings and hold
44 other public forums as it deems necessary; and (v) take other actions as it deems necessary to
45 effectuate its purposes.

46 SECTION 2. (a) There shall be an Upper Middlesex commission on the status of
47 women which shall consist of 9 persons to be appointed by the commission on the status of
48 women established in section 66 of chapter 3 of the General Laws. The Upper Middlesex
49 commission shall conduct an ongoing study of all matters concerning women in Upper
50 Middlesex communities. The Upper Middlesex commission shall report its findings to the
51 commission on the status of women annually, not later than June 2, and shall recommend
52 solutions to the problems facing women in Upper Middlesex communities. The commission on
53 the status of women shall make appointments to the Upper Middlesex commission from a pool
54 of applicants who reside in Upper Middlesex communities. For the purpose of this act, "Upper
55 Middlesex communities" shall include: the towns of Acton, Arlington, Ashby, Ayer, Bedford,
56 Belmont, Billerica, Boxborough, Burlington, Carlisle, Chelmsford, Concord, Dracut, Dunstable,
57 Groton, Lexington, Lincoln, Littleton, North Reading, Pepperell, Reading, Shirley, Stoneham,

58 Tewksbury, Townsend, Tyngsborough, Wakefield, Westford, Wilmington, Winchester, and the
59 cities of Cambridge, Everett, Lowell, Malden, Medford, Melrose, Newton, Somerville, Waltham,
60 Watertown, and Woburn.

61 (b) Members shall serve for 3-year terms and shall continue in office until their
62 successors are appointed. Members shall not be reappointed for more than 2 consecutive terms;
63 provided, however, that former members may reapply to serve on the commission after 1 year
64 has passed since their last term. Of the initial members appointed to the Upper Middlesex
65 commission on the status of women, 3 members shall be appointed for a term of 1 year, 3
66 members shall be appointed for a term of 2 years, and 3 members shall be appointed for a term of
67 3 years.

68 (c) Vacancies in the membership of the Upper Middlesex commission on the status of
69 women shall be filled by the commission on the status of women for the balance of the unexpired
70 term.

71 (d) In making appointments to the Upper Middlesex commission on the status of women,
72 the commission on the status of women shall consult with women's organizations. Nominations
73 shall be solicited between August 1 and September 16 annually through an open application that
74 is widely distributed throughout the Upper Middlesex communities. Members of the
75 commission shall be diverse and represent different Upper Middlesex communities.

76 (e) Members shall serve on the Upper Middlesex commission on the status of women as
77 volunteers and shall not be compensated.

78 (f) The Upper Middlesex commission on the status of women shall elect from among its
79 members a chair, a vice chair, a treasurer, and any other officers as it deems necessary.

80 (g) The Upper Middlesex commission on the status of women shall meet at least 4 times
81 a year, at the members' discretion. Members of the commission on the status of women may
82 attend the meetings of the Eastern Regional commission on the status of women.

83 (h) The Upper Middlesex commission on the status of women may accept and solicit
84 funds, including any gifts, donations, grants or bequests and federal funds for any of the purposes
85 of this act. The funds shall be deposited in a separate account to be expended at the discretion of
86 the commission.

87 (i) The Upper Middlesex commission on the status of women may: (i) use voluntary and
88 uncompensated services of private individuals, agencies and organizations as may, from time to
89 time, be offered or required; (ii) recommend policies and make recommendations to state and
90 local agencies and officers to effectuate the purposes of the commission; (iii) enact by-laws for
91 its own governance; (iv) hold regular public meetings, conduct fact-finding hearings and hold
92 other public forums as it deems necessary; and (v) take other actions as it deems necessary to
93 effectuate its purposes.

94 SECTION 3. (a) There shall be a Plymouth County commission on the status of women
95 which shall consist of 9 persons to be appointed by the commission on the status of women
96 established in section 66 of chapter 3 of the General Laws. The Plymouth County commission
97 shall conduct an ongoing study of all matters concerning women in Plymouth County
98 communities. The Plymouth County commission shall report its findings to the commission on
99 the status of women annually, not later than June 2, and shall recommend solutions to the
100 problems facing women in Plymouth County communities. The commission on the status of
101 women shall make appointments to the Plymouth County commission from a pool of applicants

102 who reside in Plymouth County communities. For the purpose of this act, “Plymouth County
103 communities” shall include all municipalities located in Plymouth County.

104 (b) Members shall serve for 3-year terms and shall continue in office until their
105 successors are appointed. Members shall not be reappointed for more than 2 consecutive terms;
106 provided, however, that former members may reapply to serve on the commission after 1 year
107 has passed since their last term. Of the initial members appointed to the Plymouth County
108 commission on the status of women, 3 members shall be appointed for a term of 1 year, 3
109 members shall be appointed for a term of 2 years, and 3 members shall be appointed for a term of
110 3 years.

111 (c) Vacancies in the membership of the Plymouth County commission on the status of
112 women shall be filled by the commission on the status of women for the balance of the unexpired
113 term.

114 (d) In making appointments to the Plymouth County commission on the status of
115 women, the commission on the status of women shall consult with women's organizations.
116 Nominations shall be solicited between August 1 and September 16 annually through an open
117 application that is widely distributed throughout the Plymouth County communities. Members
118 of the commission shall be diverse and represent different Plymouth County communities.

119 (e) Members shall serve on the Plymouth County commission on the status of women as
120 volunteers and shall not be compensated.

121 (f) The Plymouth County commission on the status of women shall elect from among its
122 members a chair, a vice chair, a treasurer, and any other officers as it deems necessary.

123 (g) The Plymouth County commission on the status of women shall meet at least 4 times
124 a year, at the members' discretion. Members of the commission on the status of women may
125 attend the meetings of the Plymouth County commission on the status of women.

126 (h) The Plymouth County commission on the status of women may accept and solicit
127 funds, including any gifts, donations, grants or bequests and federal funds for any of the purposes
128 of this act. The funds shall be deposited in a separate account to be expended at the discretion of
129 the commission.

130 (i) The Plymouth County commission on the status of women may: (i) use voluntary and
131 uncompensated services of private individuals, agencies and organizations as may, from time to
132 time, be offered or required; (ii) recommend policies and make recommendations to state and
133 local agencies and officers to effectuate the purposes of the commission; (iii) enact by-laws for
134 its own governance; (iv) hold regular public meetings, conduct fact-finding hearings and hold
135 other public forums as it deems necessary; and (v) take other actions as it deems necessary to
136 effectuate its purposes.

137 SECTION 4. Section 2 shall go into effect January 1, 2018.

138 SECTION 5. Section 3 shall go into effect January 1, 2018.