

**SENATE . . . . . No. 1647**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***Linda Dorcena Forry***

*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 an office of Access and Opportunities.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Linda Dorcena Forry</i>	<i>First Suffolk</i>
<i>Byron Rushing</i>	<i>9th Suffolk</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>
<i>Jason M. Lewis</i>	<i>Fifth Middlesex</i>
<i>Daniel Cullinane</i>	<i>12th Suffolk</i>
<i>Kevin G. Honan</i>	<i>17th Suffolk</i>
<i>Sal N. DiDomenico</i>	<i>Middlesex and Suffolk</i>

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By Ms. Forry, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1647) of Linda Dorcena Forry, Byron Rushing, James B. Eldridge, Jason M. Lewis and other members of the General Court for legislation to establish an office of Access and Opportunities. State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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

An Act establishing an office of Access and Opportunities.

*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 introductory paragraph of section 4A of chapter 7 of the General Laws,  
2 as appearing in the 2012 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding the following sentence:-  
3 The executive office shall also include an office of access and opportunity.

4           SECTION 2. Said section 4A of said chapter 7, as so appearing, is hereby further  
5 amended by inserting after paragraph (e) the following paragraph:-

6           (f) The office of access and opportunity shall be headed by an assistant secretary for  
7 access and opportunity who shall be appointed by the secretary with the approval of the  
8 governor. The assistant secretary shall be a person who has at least 5 years experience in the area  
9 of civil rights or diversity and inclusion efforts. The office shall: (1) promote non-discrimination  
10 and equal opportunity in all aspects of executive agency decision-making and operations,  
11 including but not limited to, employment activity, procurement activity, policymaking and

12 implementation and access to executive agency services; (2) review and recommend  
13 improvements to executive agency programs, activities and services to ensure that said programs,  
14 activities and services are administered in a non-discriminatory manner; (3) review and  
15 recommend improvements to executive agency programs, activities and services to foster  
16 economic opportunity for all persons; and (4) with the approval of the secretary, take  
17 administrative actions, including but not limited to, promulgating administrative bulletins and  
18 other policy guidance to promote and ensure nondiscrimination and equal opportunity in the  
19 policies, services, programs and activities of executive agencies. The office shall report annually  
20 the results of its effort to the chairs of the joint committee on state administration and regulatory  
21 oversight.