

SENATE No. 2136

Senate, July 31, 2017 -- Offered by Senator Stanley C. Rosenberg and Bruce E. Tarr relative to establishing a tax force on local retail sector

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Senate, July 31, 2017.



**In the One Hundred and Ninetieth General Court
(2017-2018)**

1 *Ordered,* That, there shall be a special senate taskforce to review and report on efforts to
2 strengthen the local retail sector in the commonwealth. The review shall include, but not be
3 limited to: (i) challenges faced by local retailers in a changing economic environment
4 increasingly dominated by large online sellers; (ii) closures of local retail establishments,
5 affecting local economies and property tax bases; (iii) initiatives taken by local retailers to
6 increase or maintain their market share; and (iv) actions by state and local governments to
7 encourage purchasing from local retailers, consistent with other important policy objectives
8 including adequate revenues. The task force shall consist of 13 members, 7 of whom shall be
9 members of the senate, 5 appointed by the president and 2 by the minority leader, 5 members
10 who represent large and small retailers from geographically diverse regions of the
11 commonwealth, 3 of whom shall be appointed by the president and 2 by the minority leader, 1
12 member whom shall represent the retailers association of Massachusetts. The task force may

13 consult with experts in business and economics to facilitate the committee's work and shall hold
14 at least 1 public hearing. The task force shall file a report of its findings with the clerk of the
15 senate not later than June 1, 2018.