

HOUSE No. 3116

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Tackey Chan

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 relative to the Commission on the Status of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

PETITION OF:

| NAME: | DISTRICT/ADDRESS: | DATE ADDED: |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| <i>Tackey Chan</i> | <i>2nd Norfolk</i> | <i>2/19/2021</i> |
| <i>Vanna Howard</i> | <i>17th Middlesex</i> | <i>2/22/2021</i> |
| <i>Michelle M. DuBois</i> | <i>10th Plymouth</i> | <i>2/26/2021</i> |

HOUSE No. 3116

By Mr. Chan of Quincy, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3116) of Tackey Chan, Vanna Howard and Michelle M. DuBois relative to the Commission on the Status of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Second General Court
(2021-2022)**

An Act relative to the Commission on the Status of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

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. Chapter 3 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2018 Official Edition, is
2 hereby amended by striking out section 68 in its entirety and inserting in place thereof the
3 following section:-

4 Section 68. (a) There shall be a permanent commission on the status of Asian Americans
5 and Pacific Islanders to consist of 21 persons as follows: 3 persons to be appointed by the
6 governor; 3 persons to be appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives; 3 persons to
7 be appointed by the president of the senate; 3 persons to be appointed by the state treasurer; 3
8 persons to be appointed by the state secretary; 3 persons to be appointed by the attorney general;
9 and 3 persons appointed by the state auditor. Members of the commission shall be residents of
10 the commonwealth who have demonstrated a commitment to the Asian–American and Pacific
11 Islander community. Members shall be subject to chapter 268A as they apply to special state
12 employees.

13 (b) Members shall serve for terms of 3 years and until their successors are appointed.
14 Vacancies in the membership of the commission shall be filled by the original appointing
15 authority for the balance of the unexpired term. All appointments shall be made in consultation
16 with Asian–American and Pacific Islander organizations. Nominations for members shall be
17 solicited by the appointing authorities between August 1 and September 16 of each year through
18 an open application process using a uniform application that is widely distributed throughout the
19 state.

20 (c) The commission shall elect from among its members a chair, a vice chair, a treasurer
21 and any other officers it considers necessary. The members of the commission shall receive no
22 compensation for their services, but shall be reimbursed for any usual and customary expenses
23 incurred in the performance of their duties.

24 (d) The commission shall be a resource to the commonwealth on issues affecting Asian–
25 American and Pacific Islander communities. In furtherance of that responsibility, the
26 commission shall:

27 (1) promote research and be a clearinghouse and source of information on issues
28 pertaining to Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the commonwealth;

29 (2) inform the public and leaders of business, education, human services, health care,
30 state and local governments and the communications media of the unique cultural, social, ethnic,
31 economic and educational issues affecting Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the
32 commonwealth;

33 (3) foster unity among Asian–American and Pacific Islander communities and
34 organizations in the commonwealth by promoting cooperation and sharing of information and
35 encouraging collaboration and joint activities;

36 (4) serve as a liaison between government and private interest groups with regard to
37 matters of unique interest and concern to Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the
38 commonwealth;

39 (5) identify opportunities to expand and improve commercial and cultural ties with Asian
40 and Pacific Island nations;

41 (6) identify and recommend qualified Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders for
42 appointive positions at all levels of government, including boards and commissions, as the
43 commission considers necessary and appropriate;

44 (7) assess programs and practices in all state agencies as they affect Asian Americans and
45 Pacific Islanders, as the commission considers necessary and appropriate;

46 (8) advise executive and legislative bodies on the potential effect on Asian Americans
47 and Pacific Islanders of proposed legislation, as the commission considers necessary and
48 appropriate; and

49 (9) generally undertake activities designed to enable the commonwealth to realize the full
50 benefit of the skills, talents and cultural heritage of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the
51 commonwealth.

52 (e) The commission shall annually, on or before June 2, report the results of its findings
53 and activities of the preceding year and its recommendations to the governor and to the clerks of
54 the senate and house of representatives.

55 (f) The powers of the commission shall include, but not be limited, to:

56 (1) to use the voluntary and uncompensated services of private individuals, agencies and
57 organizations that may from time to time be offered and needed, including provision of meeting
58 places and refreshments;

59 (2) to hold regular, public meetings and to hold fact-finding hearings and other public
60 forums as it considers necessary;

61 (3) to direct a staff to perform its duties;

62 (4) to establish and maintain offices that it considers necessary, subject to appropriation;

63 (5) to enact by-laws for its own governance that are not inconsistent with any general or
64 special law; and

65 (6) to recommend policies and make recommendations to agencies and officers of the
66 state and local subdivisions of government to effectuate the purposes of subsection (d).

67 (g) The commission may request from all state agencies whatever information and
68 assistance the commission requires.

69 (h) The commission may accept and solicit funds, including any gifts, donations, grants,
70 or bequests, or any federal funds for any of the purposes of this section. These funds shall be

71 deposited in a separate account with the state treasurer, be received by the treasurer on behalf of
72 the commonwealth, and be expended by the commission in accordance with law.

73 (i) The commission staff shall consist of an executive director, employees, and volunteers
74 who assist the commission in effecting its statutory duties. The commission shall appoint the
75 executive director for a term of 3 years.

76 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon its passage.