

**SENATE . . . . . No. 2759**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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

SENATE, March 17, 2022.

The committee on Community Development and Small Businesses to whom was referred the petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 147) of Diana DiZoglio for legislation to support MassMakers, reports recommending that the accompanying bill (Senate, No. 2759) ought to pass.

For the committee,  
Nick Collins

**SENATE . . . . . No. 2759**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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

An Act to support MassMakers.

*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. This Act may be known as the MassMakers Act. For purposes of this Act,  
2 the following terms shall have the following meanings unless the context clearly requires  
3 otherwise:

4           “HIRE MASS”, the entrepreneurial and business skills program established pursuant to  
5 Section 7 of this Act, designed to provide skills to aspiring entrepreneurs and microbusinesses, as  
6 defined in this Act, to start up, scale up, and become the next generation’s employers.

7           “Mass Main Streets”, the office of Massachusetts main streets established pursuant to  
8 Section 5 of this Act, for the purpose of protecting, coordinating, promoting, and revitalizing  
9 downtowns and commercial districts of the commonwealth’s cities and towns.

10           “MassMade business”, an enterprise which (i) has its principal place of business in the  
11 commonwealth; (ii) is in good standing with the department of revenue; (iii) is registered with  
12 Supply Mass/Buy Mass, as defined in this Act; and (iv) produces raw materials, including

13 agricultural items, in the commonwealth, or manufactures products or goods in the  
14 commonwealth.

15 “MassMakers Portal”, the one-stop shop interactive web portal established pursuant to  
16 Section 3 of this Act for prospective and established businesses in the commonwealth, to serve as  
17 the single, unified entry point for business information and statutory and regulatory compliance.

18 “Massport Model”, the bidder selection model implemented by the port authority which,  
19 in the port authority’s requests for proposals, requires bidders to incorporate diversity and  
20 inclusion plans into their bids, such plans to be considered alongside traditional criteria when  
21 evaluating bids and given a weight of 25%.

22 “Microbusiness”, an enterprise which has its principal place of business in the  
23 commonwealth, is independently owned and operated, and (i) if a manufacturing firm, has 25 or  
24 fewer employees, or (ii) if a service, construction or non-manufacturing firm, has 25 or fewer  
25 employees and average annual gross receipts over the 3 previous years not exceeding  
26 \$3,500,000, indexed for inflation.

27 “Minority business”, an enterprise which has its principal place of business in the  
28 commonwealth, is independently owned and operated, and at least 51% of which is owned and  
29 dominantly controlled by adult minority principals as defined in 425 CMR 2.02(1), or any  
30 successor regulation thereto.

31 “Small business”, a business entity, including its affiliates, that: (i) is independently  
32 owned and operated; (ii) has a principal place of business in the commonwealth; and (iii) would  
33 be defined as a "small business" under applicable federal law, as established in the United States  
34 Code and promulgated from time to time by the United States Small Business Administration.

35           “Supply Mass/Buy Mass”, the program established pursuant to Section 4 of this Act for  
36 the purpose of connecting local suppliers with local purchasers.

37           “Massachusetts-based business”, an enterprise that: (i) has its principal place of business  
38 in the commonwealth; (ii) is in good standing with the department of revenue; and (iii) has been  
39 in business for at least 1 year.”

40           SECTION 2. Section 57 of chapter 7 of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding  
41 the following paragraphs:-

42           In order to fulfill the commitment embodied in the foregoing policy, it is not sufficient  
43 that the state government see that all available services and programs are put to the best use. The  
44 state government has an affirmative duty to advance diversity and equity in all of its own rules,  
45 regulations and practices. It is therefore incorporated into the policy of the commonwealth that  
46 all agencies of the commonwealth, when procuring supplies or services via requests for  
47 proposals from private businesses, include diversity and inclusion plan requirements in all such  
48 requests and consider those plans alongside traditional criteria when evaluating bids. The weight  
49 given to diversity and inclusion plans when evaluating bids shall be determined by each agency  
50 of the commonwealth in collaboration with the executive office of housing and economic  
51 development, the executive office of labor and workforce development, the executive office for  
52 administration and finance, the commission against discrimination, the supplier diversity office,  
53 the vendor advisory team formed by the gaming commission, and the port authority. Agencies  
54 may seek guidance from the Massport Model in determining the weight to be given to diversity  
55 and inclusion plans when evaluating bids.

56           The secretary of each executive office is hereby authorized to promulgate regulations to  
57 assure the timely and effective implementation of this section.

58           SECTION 2A. Section 22O of chapter 7 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2020  
59 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding the following paragraph:-

60           When procuring goods or services through requests for proposals, state agencies shall  
61 consider the bidder's principal place of business in addition to other criteria when evaluating  
62 bids. The weight given to Massachusetts-based businesses when evaluating bids shall be  
63 determined by each agency of the commonwealth in collaboration with the executive office of  
64 housing and economic development, the executive office of labor and workforce development  
65 and the executive office for administration and finance.

66           SECTION 3. Chapter 9 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section  
67 31 the following section:-

68           Section 32: MassMakers Portal

69           Section 32. (a) There is hereby established a one-stop shop interactive web portal to be  
70 known as the MassMakers Portal for prospective and established businesses in the  
71 commonwealth. The state secretary, the executive office for administration and finance, the  
72 executive offices of education, energy and environmental affairs, health and human services,  
73 housing and economic development, labor and workforce development, public safety and  
74 security, and technology services and security, and the department of revenue shall jointly  
75 develop and implement the MassMakers Portal, which shall serve as a single, unified entry point  
76 for prospective and established businesses to obtain local business information and execute all

77 statutory and regulatory compliance tasks required by the commonwealth in connection with the  
78 creation, continuing operation, or upscaling of business.

79 (b) In order to develop and implement the MassMakers Portal, the agencies identified in  
80 subsection (a) shall assemble a task force which shall consist of the state secretary, ex officio, or  
81 a designee, the secretaries of administration and finance, education, energy and environmental  
82 affairs, health and human services, housing and economic development, labor and workforce  
83 development, public safety and security, and technology services and security, ex officio, or their  
84 designees, the commissioner of revenue, ex officio, or a designee; 7 persons appointed by the  
85 attorney general, 1 of whom shall be from each of the 7 regions of the commonwealth: the  
86 western region, the central region, the northeast region, the Merrimack Valley, the metro west  
87 region, the Greater Boston region, and the southeast region; and 7 persons appointed by the  
88 governor, 1 of whom shall be from each of the 7 identified regions of the commonwealth. The  
89 governor, attorney general, state treasurer, and co-chairs of the task force shall have the  
90 discretion to appoint other members to the task force by majority vote. Persons appointed to the  
91 task force shall be members or representatives of the business community, including  
92 entrepreneurs, microbusiness owners, minority business owners and small business owners,  
93 and/or have demonstrated interests and experience in state agency processes, business  
94 regulations, web portal design and implementation, and/or other qualifications and experience  
95 that the appointing authorities determine are necessary to fulfilling the mission of the task force.  
96 Members shall be selected without regard to political affiliation, shall as fully as possible  
97 represent a diverse and equitable array of stakeholders, and shall serve without compensation.  
98 The state secretary, or a designee from among the members of the task force, and the secretary of

99 housing and economic development, or a designee from among the members of the task force,  
100 shall serve as co-chairs.

101 (c) The task force shall perform a needs and cost assessment and may, subject to  
102 appropriation and the laws and regulations pertaining to the employment of consultants, employ  
103 such consultants as the task force deems necessary to assist in the execution of said assessment.  
104 Said assessment shall be completed and the results thereof shall be presented to the governor and  
105 the general court by March 1, 2022, to inform the budget of the next legislative annual session.  
106 The assessment shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

107 (1) recommendations on the location, design, functionality and scope of services of the  
108 MassMakers Portal, which at a minimum shall include:

109 (i) online account services through which businesses can monitor deadlines for  
110 submission of forms, documents and payments, as well as compliance status and standing with  
111 each state agency;

112 (ii) electronic applications for licenses and renewals thereof;

113 (iii) electronic payment options for fees and taxes incident to the creation, continuing  
114 operation or upscaling of business;

115 (iv) compliance alerts in connection with new or revised state statutes, regulations and  
116 procedures;

117 (v) toolkits and video tutorials on all aspects of starting a business in the commonwealth,  
118 operating a business, upscaling a business, completing forms and complying with state statutory  
119 and regulatory requirements in connection therewith;

120 (vi) Supply Mass/Buy Mass information, and coordination with Supply Mass/Buy Mass  
121 online services;

122 (vii) Mass Main Streets information, and coordination with Mass Main Streets online  
123 services;

124 (viii) HÛRE MASS information, and coordination with HÛRE MASS online services;

125 and

126 (ix) technical assistance resources;

127 (2) an estimate of the costs of full implementation of the MassMakers Portal, including,  
128 but not limited to, those associated with technology, infrastructure, operations and maintenance,  
129 sharing and coordination of agency data, and security;

130 (3) recommendations for and an estimate of the costs of establishing and maintaining a  
131 help center staffed with persons trained to answer questions and assist with navigation of the  
132 MassMakers Portal;

133 (4) recommendations on the time-line for designing, developing and testing the  
134 MassMakers Portal, which at the latest shall have its first testing phase for the state secretary's  
135 office to process new business registrations and associated fee payments by December 31, 2022,  
136 and shall have its second testing phase to submit tax payments with the department of revenue by  
137 December 31, 2023;

138 (5) recommendations as to the roles of the agencies identified in subsection (a) regarding  
139 ongoing operational management of the MassMakers Portal;



140 (6) a comprehensive analysis of the processes of all state agencies with respect to the  
141 creation, continued operation or upscaling of businesses located in the commonwealth, with a  
142 goal of simplifying and streamlining regulatory tasks and forms required by said agencies and  
143 strengthening the delivery of services provided by said agencies to entrepreneurs,  
144 microbusinesses, small businesses, and other businesses in the commonwealth;

145 (7) identification of any state statutory, regulatory or procedural changes that need to be  
146 made to effectuate the functionality of the MassMakers Portal;

147 (8) identification of existing entrepreneurial, microbusiness, small business, and other  
148 business assets, resources, web content and functions provided by state agencies to coordinate  
149 and incorporate such assets, resources, web content and functions into the MassMakers Portal;

150 (9) identification of potential impediments to functionality posed by federal law, if any,  
151 and recommendations for work-arounds or solutions to such impediments;

152 (10) the impact of prioritizing microbusiness applications and account services; and

153 (11) recommendations on potential incentives to encourage municipalities or regional  
154 planning authorities to create local portals for similar purposes or committed to similar mission  
155 outcomes as the MassMakers Portal, with the option of linking to or being incorporated into the  
156 MassMakers Portal.

157 (d) The task force may, subject to appropriation, appoint and may remove all such  
158 employees as may be necessary to carry out the work of designing and implementing the  
159 MassMakers Portal based on the results of the needs and cost assessment. Unless otherwise

160 provided by law, all such appointments and removals of employees shall be made under chapter  
161 31.

162 (e) The state secretary shall hold as a separate fund and may expend such sums as may be  
163 appropriated for the MassMakers Portal by the general court, and may accept gifts, donations,  
164 grants or bequests or any federal funds for any of the purposes set forth in this section, which  
165 shall be credited to the fund. All available money in the fund that is unexpended at the end of  
166 each fiscal year shall not revert to the General Fund and shall be available for expenditure by the  
167 task force in the subsequent fiscal year.

168 (f) The state secretary is hereby authorized to promulgate regulations to assure the timely  
169 and effective implementation of this section.

170 SECTION 4. Chapter 23A of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking out section  
171 10A and inserting the following section:-

172 Section 10A: Supply Mass/Buy Mass; MassMade

173 Section 10A. (a) In order for the commonwealth to execute on its responsibility of  
174 facilitating expansion of the local economy, MOBD shall establish a program to be known as  
175 Supply Mass/Buy Mass for the purpose of connecting local suppliers with local purchasers,  
176 whether public or private, institutional, commercial or individual. In implementing said program,  
177 MOBD shall:

178 (1) establish requirements for local suppliers to register as MassMade businesses with  
179 Supply Mass/Buy Mass;

180 (2) design and implement a Supply Mass/Buy Mass interactive web portal through which  
181 local suppliers can register as MassMade businesses and create MassMade business profiles with  
182 industry-specific information;

183 (3) assemble a searchable database of MassMade businesses through the portal by  
184 industry, raw materials produced or products or goods manufactured, and other identifying  
185 characteristics, with specific search features independently tailored toward local institutional  
186 purchasers, commercial purchasers, and individual purchasers;

187 (4) develop toolkits and training videos available through the portal to guide MassMade  
188 businesses to better understand the needs and procurement processes of local institutional and  
189 commercial purchasers;

190 (5) enable local institutional and commercial purchasers to issue requests for proposals  
191 through the portal and MassMade businesses to respond to such requests through the portal;

192 (6) promote live networking events through the portal to connect MassMade businesses  
193 with local institutional and commercial purchasers;

194 (7) determine those raw materials, products or goods needed by local institutional and  
195 commercial purchasers currently purchased outside the commonwealth or from foreign  
196 countries, especially raw materials, products or goods required for the first time; inquire whether  
197 other local institutional or commercial purchasers are in need of such raw materials, products or  
198 goods; assess whether any MassMade businesses are capable of producing or manufacturing the  
199 needed raw materials, products or goods with additional capital or retooling;

200 (8) coordinate and connect the portal with the MassMakers Portal;

201 (9) identify other obstacles to conducting business in the commonwealth and advance  
202 resources through the portal to address those obstacles to the extent possible;

203 (10) promote public-private partnerships;

204 (11) develop, evaluate and recommend policies, initiatives and incentives to prevent  
205 consumer flight from local suppliers in the cities and towns of the Merrimack Valley and other  
206 border municipalities to suppliers in New Hampshire or other tax advantaged states or from other  
207 sources; and

208 (12) undertake any other activities necessary to implement the purposes of this section.

209 Dedicated effort shall be made to encourage diversity and advance equity based on race,  
210 color, religious creed, national origin, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, genetic  
211 information, ancestry, disability, and language in implementing Supply Mass/Buy Mass.

212 (b) MOBD may consult with and seek input from interested stakeholders and shall work  
213 with entities including MassMade businesses, regional economic development organizations,  
214 microbusiness and small business associations, chambers of commerce, the supplier diversity  
215 office, the Massachusetts marketing partnership and the office of consumer affairs and business  
216 regulations in order to collect and provide business and product information related to  
217 MassMade businesses. All Supply Mass/Buy Mass information shall be readily accessible and  
218 free to the public.

219 (c) MOBD shall hold as a separate fund and may expend such sums as may be  
220 appropriated for Supply Mass/Buy Mass by the general court, and may accept gifts, donations,  
221 grants or bequests or any federal funds for any of the purposes set forth in this section, which

222 shall be credited to the fund. All available money in the fund that is unexpended at the end of  
223 each fiscal year shall not revert to the General Fund and shall be available for expenditure by  
224 MOBD for Supply Mass/Buy Mass in the subsequent fiscal year.

225 (d) MOBD is hereby authorized to promulgate regulations to assure the timely and  
226 effective implementation of this section.

227 SECTION 5. Chapter 23A of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after  
228 section 13 the following section:-

229 Section 13 ½: Mass Main Streets; executive director; function; employees; advisory  
230 commission; industrial mill buildings; gifts and grants; trust fund

231 Section 13 ½. (a) There shall be within MOBD an office of Massachusetts main streets to  
232 be known as Mass Main Streets, in this section referred to as MMS, which shall be under the  
233 supervision and control of an executive director. The powers and duties given to the executive  
234 director of MMS in this section and in any other general or special law shall be exercised and  
235 discharged subject to the direction, control and supervision of MOBD.

236 (b)(1) The executive director of MMS shall be appointed by the governor, and serve at  
237 the pleasure of the governor. The position of executive director of MMS shall be classified under  
238 section 45 of chapter 30 and the executive director of MMS shall devote full time during  
239 business hours to the duties of MMS.

240 (2) The executive director of MMS shall be the executive and administrative head of  
241 MMS and shall be responsible for administering and enforcing the laws relative to MMS, any  
242 administrative unit of MMS, and the policies, programs and initiatives enacted to fulfill the

243 mission of MMS pursuant to this section. Powers and duties given to an administrative unit of  
244 MMS by a general or special law shall be exercised subject to the direction, control and  
245 supervision of the executive director of MMS.

246 (c) MMS shall serve as the principal agency for protecting, coordinating, promoting and  
247 revitalizing downtowns and commercial districts of the commonwealth's cities and towns,  
248 advancing economic and community development within the context of historic preservation,  
249 and advocating public-private partnerships to ensure continuing progress and enduring success,  
250 by providing strategic, organizational, informational, marketing and technical assistance and  
251 resources to the commonwealth's cities and towns and to public and private entities organized  
252 for similar purposes or committed to similar mission outcomes. Dedicated effort shall be made to  
253 encourage diversity and advance equity based on race, color, religious creed, national origin, sex,  
254 gender identity, sexual orientation, genetic information, ancestry, disability, and language in any  
255 recommendations, policies, programs and initiatives developed to fulfill the mission of MMS  
256 pursuant to this section.

257 (d) The executive director of MMS may, subject to appropriation and with the approval  
258 of MOBD, appoint and may, with like approval, remove all such employees as may be necessary  
259 to carry out the work of MMS. Unless otherwise provided by law, all such appointments and  
260 removals shall be made under chapter 31. The executive director may, subject to appropriation  
261 and the laws and regulations pertaining to the employment of consultants, employ such  
262 consultants as the executive director may deem necessary.

263 (e)(1) MMS shall establish an advisory commission to develop budget recommendations  
264 and strategies for the development of policies, programs and initiatives to fulfill the mission of

265 MMS pursuant to this section, including, but not limited to, the design and implementation of an  
266 MMS interactive web portal, coordination of such portal with the MassMakers Portal, and  
267 qualification of MMS for Main Street America Certification in order to be eligible for programs,  
268 tools and resources provided by Main Street America. The executive director of MMS shall  
269 convene the advisory commission quarterly. The advisory commission shall annually report its  
270 recommendations to MOBD not later than November 1. The advisory commission shall annually  
271 file its recommendations with the clerks of the senate and house of representatives not later than  
272 November 1. The membership of the commission shall annually elect a chairperson.

273 (2) The advisory commission shall have 32 members: 1 representative from the  
274 Massachusetts cultural council; 1 representative from the Massachusetts historical commission; 1  
275 representative from the community economic development assistance corporation; 1  
276 representative from Boston Main Streets Foundation; the executive director or the executor  
277 director's designee of each of the commonwealth's 14 regional planning agencies: Berkshire  
278 Regional Planning Commission, Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization, Cape Cod  
279 Commission, Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission, Franklin Regional Council  
280 of Governments, Martha's Vineyard Commission, Merrimack Valley Planning Commission,  
281 Metropolitan Area Planning Council, Montachusett Regional Planning Commission, Nantucket  
282 Planning and Economic Development Commission, Northern Middlesex Council of  
283 Governments, Old Colony Planning Council, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, and  
284 Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District; and 14 persons appointed  
285 by the governor, 2 of whom shall be from each of the 7 regions of the commonwealth: the  
286 western region, the central region, the northeast region, the Merrimack Valley, the metro west  
287 region, the Greater Boston region, and the southeast region. Commission members shall be

288 persons with demonstrated interests and experience in advancing the cultural, historical and/or  
289 economic vitality of downtowns and commercial districts of the commonwealth's cities and  
290 towns. All persons appointed to the commission shall be selected without regard to political  
291 affiliation and solely on the basis of the qualifications and experience that the appointing  
292 authorities determine are necessary to fulfilling the mission of the commission, and shall as fully  
293 as possible represent a diverse and equitable array of stakeholders. Each member appointed by  
294 the governor shall serve at the pleasure of the governor.

295 (3) The members of the commission shall receive no compensation for their services but  
296 shall be reimbursed for any usual and customary expenses incurred in the performance of their  
297 duties. This commission shall annually, not later than November 1, make a report to the  
298 executive director and the secretary of housing and economic development, and may make such  
299 special reports as the commission or the executive director of MMS may deem desirable.

300 (f)(1) MMS shall establish a subcommittee of the advisory commission to develop  
301 strategies to stimulate the redevelopment, rehabilitation and revitalization of industrial mill  
302 buildings and their environs in the commonwealth. Recommendations of the subcommittee shall  
303 be incorporated into the annual report filed by the advisory commission with the clerks of the  
304 senate and house of representatives pursuant to paragraph 1 of subsection (e).

305 (2) The subcommittee shall serve as a research body for issues critical to the  
306 redevelopment, rehabilitation and revitalization of industrial mill buildings and their environs in  
307 the commonwealth and shall: (i) create a database and study, review and report on the status of  
308 industrial mill buildings and their environs in the commonwealth; (ii) assess market conditions  
309 relative to the economic robusticity of each active industrial mill building in its current use; (iii)



310 identify measures to improve industrial mill building energy efficiency and prevent further  
311 structural and environmental degradation; (iv) investigate potential short-term and long-term  
312 uses or development solutions for vacant or underutilized industrial mill buildings; (v) review  
313 and advise the general court and the executive branch on the impact of existing and proposed  
314 state laws, policies and regulations on the potential redevelopment, rehabilitation or  
315 revitalization of industrial mill buildings and their environs, including, but not limited to, tax  
316 incentives and renewable energy initiatives; (vi) explore innovative permitting processes, zoning  
317 regulations and building codes to encourage the redevelopment, rehabilitation or revitalization of  
318 industrial mill buildings and their environs; (vii) advance legislative and policy solutions to  
319 effectuate the foregoing; (viii) advocate public-private partnership opportunities; and (ix) take  
320 such other actions as deemed necessary in furtherance of its purposes.

321 (3) The subcommittee shall consist of those members of the advisory commission  
322 representing jurisdictions containing industrial mill buildings, and 1 industrial mill building  
323 owner from each region of the 7 regions identified in paragraph (2) of subsection (e) which  
324 contains an industrial mill building appointed by the governor. Subcommittee members shall be  
325 persons with demonstrated interests and experience in the redevelopment, rehabilitation and/or  
326 revitalization of industrial mill buildings and their environs in the commonwealth. All persons  
327 appointed to the subcommittee shall be selected without regard to political affiliation and solely  
328 on the basis of the qualifications and experience that the appointing authorities determine are  
329 necessary to fulfilling the mission of the subcommittee, and shall as fully as possible represent a  
330 diverse and equitable array of stakeholders. Each member appointed by the governor shall serve  
331 at the pleasure of the governor. The members of the subcommittee shall receive no compensation

332 for their services but shall be reimbursed for any usual and customary expenses incurred in the  
333 performance of their duties.

334 (g) MMS may accept and solicit funds, including any gifts, donations, grants or bequests  
335 or any federal funds for any of the purposes set forth in this section, which shall be credited to  
336 the Mass Main Streets Trust Fund established pursuant to subsection (h).

337 (h)(1) There shall be a Mass Main Streets Trust Fund which shall be administered by  
338 MOBD as custodian for MMS and held by MOBD separate and apart from its other funds. There  
339 shall be credited to the fund such sums received pursuant to subsection (g) and such sums as may  
340 be appropriated for MMS by the general court.

341 (2) All available money in the fund that is unexpended at the end of each fiscal year shall  
342 not revert to the General Fund and shall be available for expenditure by MMS in the subsequent  
343 fiscal year.

344 (3) MMS shall submit an annual report to MOBD, the clerks of the senate and house of  
345 representatives and the joint committee on community development and small businesses not  
346 later than December 31 on the cost-effectiveness of the fund. The report shall be made available  
347 on the MMS website. The report shall include: (i) expenditures made by MMS from money out  
348 of the fund to promote the revitalization of downtowns and commercial districts of the  
349 commonwealth's cities and towns and to otherwise fulfill the mission of MMS pursuant to this  
350 section; and (ii) expenditures made by MMS for administrative costs.

351 SECTION 6. Chapter 23A of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after  
352 section 66 the following section:-

353           Section 66A: Microbusiness and minority business strategy commission; members;  
354 powers and duties; meetings; annual report

355           Section 66A. (a) There shall be a microbusiness and minority business strategy  
356 commission within, but not subject to the supervision or control of, the executive office of  
357 housing and economic development. The mission of the commission shall be to enhance the  
358 economic vitality of the commonwealth's microbusinesses and minority businesses, recognizing  
359 the fundamental role that microbusinesses and minority businesses play in the economy and the  
360 contributions made by microbusinesses and minority businesses to the general welfare of the  
361 commonwealth.

362           (b) The commission shall consist of the following 18 members: the secretary of housing  
363 and economic development, ex officio, or a designee; the secretary of administration and finance,  
364 ex officio, or a designee; the chair of the commission against discrimination, ex officio, or a  
365 designee; the director of the supplier diversity office, ex officio, or a designee, and 14 persons  
366 appointed by the governor, 2 of whom shall be from each of the 7 regions of the commonwealth:  
367 the western region, the central region, the northeast region, the Merrimack Valley, the metro  
368 west region, the Greater Boston region, and the southeast region. Of those 14 appointees, at least  
369 3 shall be microbusiness owners or representatives of microbusiness owners in underserved  
370 communities or communities with a high percentage of low-income households, at least 3 shall  
371 be minority business owners or representatives of minority business owners in underserved  
372 communities or communities with a high percentage of low-income households, and at least 3  
373 shall be founders or organizers of platforms, pop-up markets, or other vendor collaboratives  
374 serving microbusinesses organized for similar purposes or committed to similar mission  
375 outcomes as, for example, CI Works, WeWork, and Top Knots CoWorking, and/or minority

376 businesses organized for similar purposes or committed to similar mission outcomes for  
377 advancing equity based on race, color, religious creed, national origin, sex, gender identity,  
378 sexual orientation, genetic information, ancestry, disability, or language as, for example,  
379 BLK+GRN, the e-commerce platform We Buy Black, and the Black-Owned Market.  
380 Commission members shall be persons with demonstrated interests and experience in advancing  
381 the interests of microbusinesses and/or minority businesses, and their owners. All persons  
382 appointed to the commission shall be selected without regard to political affiliation and solely on  
383 the basis of the qualifications and experience that the appointing authorities determine are  
384 necessary to fulfilling the mission of the commission, and shall as fully as possible represent a  
385 diverse and equitable array of stakeholders.

386 (c) Members of the commission may serve a maximum of 3 consecutive 3-year terms. A  
387 vacancy occurring on the commission shall be filled within 90 days by the original appointing  
388 authority. A person appointed to fill a vacancy shall serve initially only for the balance of the  
389 unexpired term. The commission shall annually elect from among its members a chair, a vice  
390 chair, and any other officers it considers necessary. The members of the commission shall  
391 receive no compensation for their services but shall be reimbursed for any usual and customary  
392 expenses incurred in the performance of their duties. Members shall be considered special state  
393 employees for the purposes of chapter 268A. Each member of the commission shall be a resident  
394 of the commonwealth.

395 (d) The commission shall serve as a research body for issues critical to the welfare and  
396 vitality of the commonwealth's microbusinesses and minority businesses and shall: (i) study,  
397 review and report on the status of microbusinesses and minority businesses in the  
398 commonwealth; (ii) advise the general court and the executive branch of the impact of existing

399 and proposed state laws, policies and regulations on the commonwealth's microbusinesses and  
400 minority businesses; (iii) advance legislative and policy solutions that address the needs of the  
401 commonwealth's microbusinesses and minority businesses; (iv) advocate to ensure that the  
402 commonwealth's microbusinesses and minority businesses receive a fair share of state  
403 investment; (v) work with lending institutions, insurance companies, and other private businesses  
404 in the commonwealth to encourage formation of seed money and microcredit opportunities for  
405 facilitating the starting up and upscaling of microbusinesses and minority businesses in their  
406 efforts to obtain loan money and operating capital from private and public lenders; (vi) promote  
407 collaboration among the commonwealth's microbusinesses and minority businesses to improve  
408 efficiency in delivery of services and other cost efficiencies; and (vii) develop and support access  
409 to state resources for the commonwealth's microbusinesses and minority businesses. The  
410 executive office shall provide the commission with adequate office space and any research,  
411 analysis or other staff support that the commission reasonably requires.

412 (e) The commission shall meet on a quarterly basis at the discretion of the chair. Meeting  
413 locations shall rotate between the 7 regions of the commonwealth identified in subsection (b).  
414 Meetings shall be open to the public pursuant to sections 18 to 25, inclusive, of chapter 30A.

415 (f) The commission may accept and solicit funds, including any gifts, donations, grants or  
416 bequests or any federal funds for any of the purposes of this section. The funds shall be deposited  
417 in a separate account with the state treasurer, shall be received by the state treasurer on behalf of  
418 the commonwealth and shall be expended by the commission under the law.

419 (g) The commission shall annually, not later than June 2, report the results of its findings  
420 and activities of the preceding year and its recommendations to the governor and to the clerks of

421 the senate and the house of representatives who shall forward the same to the joint committee on  
422 economic development and emerging technologies.

423 (h) Notwithstanding any general or special law, regulation, policy or procedure to the  
424 contrary, microbusinesses shall be exempt from the annual report fees imposed by the state  
425 secretary's office, and minority businesses that qualify as microbusinesses shall be exempt from  
426 the diversity certification and third-party certification application fees imposed by the supplier  
427 diversity office. The state secretary is hereby authorized to promulgate regulations to assure the  
428 timely and effective implementation of this subsection.

429 SECTION 7. Chapter 23A of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after  
430 section 68 the following section:-

431 Section 69: HÛRE MASS

432 Section 69. (a) MOBD shall establish an entrepreneurial and business skills program to  
433 be known as HÛRE MASS, designed to provide entrepreneurial and business skills to residents  
434 of the commonwealth who are in the process of acquiring or who possess valuable saleable trade  
435 skills, including, but not limited to, hairstylists and barbers, manicurists, aestheticians, massage  
436 therapists, electricians, plumbers, and gas fitters, but who lack the knowledge to start or expand  
437 their own businesses, in order to raise them to the level where they can start their own  
438 businesses, become microbusinesses and eventually scale up to become small businesses and the  
439 next generation's employers. Dedicated effort shall be made to encourage diversity and advance  
440 equity based on race, color, religious creed, national origin, sex, gender identity, sexual  
441 orientation, genetic information, ancestry, disability, and language in the program developed

442 pursuant to the authority conferred in this section, and any successor policies, programs and  
443 initiatives related to said program.

444 (b) MOBD shall consult with and engage relevant stakeholders in the commonwealth,  
445 including, but not limited to, students, educators and administrators of vocational and technical  
446 schools, community colleges, public colleges and universities, and private colleges and  
447 universities, participants and administrators of other trade, certification and apprenticeship  
448 programs, microbusiness and small business associations and owners, minority business  
449 associations and owners, and trade and labor associations, to assist in the development and  
450 periodic review of the program and its implementation, including, but not limited to:

451 (1) determining the criteria and processes for participation in HÛRE MASS, whether as a  
452 student or educator, to maximize the number and diversity of people served;

453 (2) identifying entrepreneurial and microbusiness development needs and existing  
454 resources and services;

455 (3) addressing obstacles for aspiring entrepreneurs and upscaling microbusiness owners  
456 in utilizing existing resources and services and exploring methods to simplify, streamline and  
457 strengthen the delivery of such resources and services;

458 (4) establishing curricula for HÛRE MASS, with special attention paid to the needs of  
459 aspiring entrepreneurs and microbusiness owners for off-hour and accelerated programming,  
460 including variants for entrepreneurial and business skills weekend “bootcamps”, to maximize the  
461 skills gained and quality of outcomes achieved;

462 (5) engaging voluntary uncompensated and, subject to appropriation, compensated  
463 educators and administrators to implement HÛRE MASS;

464 (6) cultivating and promoting public-private partnerships to ensure an enduring HÛRE  
465 MASS program;

466 (7) generating toolkits and training videos to be made available through the MassMakers  
467 Portal; and

468 (8) developing budget recommendations.

469 MOBD shall hold its first public outreach not more than 60 days after the effective date  
470 of this act and shall, to the extent possible, ensure fair representation and input from a diverse  
471 and equitable array of stakeholders. MOBD may assemble a task force to effectuate the  
472 foregoing, whose members shall serve without compensation.

473 (c) MOBD shall hold as a separate fund and may expend such sums as may be  
474 appropriated for HÛRE MASS by the general court, and may accept gifts, donations, grants or  
475 bequests or any federal funds for any of the purposes set forth in this section, which shall be  
476 credited to the fund. All available money in the fund that is unexpended at the end of each fiscal  
477 year shall not revert to the General Fund and shall be available for expenditure by MOBD for  
478 HÛRE MASS in the subsequent fiscal year.

479 (d) MOBD shall annually, on or before December 31, file a report with the clerks of the  
480 house of representatives and the senate, the house and senate committees on ways and means, the  
481 joint committee on economic development and emerging technologies, the joint committee on



482 community development and small businesses, the joint committee on labor and workforce  
483 development, and the joint committee on education.

484 (e) MOBD is hereby authorized to promulgate regulations to assure the timely and  
485 effective implementation of this section.

486 SECTION 8. Chapter 30A of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking out section  
487 5A and inserting in place thereof the following section:-

488 Section 5A: Review of rules and regulations regarding economic impact on  
489 microbusinesses and small businesses

490 Section 5A. Existing rules and regulations shall be reviewed by each agency  
491 contemporaneously with the development of the written comprehensive economic development  
492 policy for the commonwealth and the strategic plan for implementing the policy during the first  
493 year of each new gubernatorial administration required pursuant to subsection (l) of section 16G  
494 of chapter 6A, which review shall be completed no later than June 30 of that year in order to  
495 inform said economic development policy, or 5 years from the date last reviewed, whichever  
496 occurs first, to ensure that those rules and regulations minimize economic impact on  
497 microbusinesses and small businesses in a manner consistent with the stated objectives of  
498 applicable statutes.

499 In reviewing a rule or regulation to minimize economic impact of the rule or regulation  
500 on microbusinesses and small businesses, the agency shall file a business impact statement which  
501 considers the following factors and any impact differentials between microbusinesses and small  
502 businesses that are not microbusinesses:

- 503 (1) the continuing need for the rule or regulation;
- 504 (2) the nature of complaints or comments received concerning the rule or regulation from  
505 the public;
- 506 (3) the complexity of the rule or regulation;
- 507 (4) the extent to which the rule or regulation overlaps, duplicates or conflicts with other  
508 federal, state and local governmental rules and regulations;
- 509 (5) the length of time since the rule or regulation has been enacted, changed, amended or  
510 modified; and
- 511 (6) the degree to which technology, economic conditions or other factors have changed in  
512 the subject areas affected by the rule or regulation.

513 SECTION 9. Section 6 of chapter 30B of the General Laws is hereby amended by  
514 striking out subsection (b) and inserting the following subsection:-

515 (b) The chief procurement officer shall solicit proposals through a request for proposals.

516 The request for proposals shall include:

517 (1) the time and date for receipt of proposals, the address of the office to which the  
518 proposals are to be delivered, the maximum time for proposal acceptance by the governmental  
519 body;

520 (2) the purchase description and all evaluation criteria that will be utilized pursuant to  
521 paragraph (e);

522 (3) a requirement for a diversity and inclusion plan which shall be considered alongside  
523 traditional criteria when evaluating bids; and

524 (4) all contractual terms and conditions applicable to the procurement provided that the  
525 contract may incorporate by reference a plan submitted by the selected offeror for providing the  
526 required supplies or services.

527 The request for proposals may incorporate documents by reference; provided, however,  
528 that the request for proposals specifies where prospective offerors may obtain the documents.  
529 The request for proposals shall provide for the separate submission of price, and shall indicate  
530 when and how the offerors shall submit the price. The chief procurement officer shall make  
531 copies of the request for proposals available to all persons on an equal basis.

532 SECTION 10. This Act shall take effect on January 1, 2022.

533 SECTION 11. Sections 3 and 9 shall only apply to requests for proposals proffered on or  
534 after the effective date of this Act.