

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

1 by inserting after section __ the following sections:-

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

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

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

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

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

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

24 “Microbusiness”, an enterprise which has its principal place of business in the
25 commonwealth, is independently owned and operated, and (i) if a manufacturing firm, has 25 or
26 fewer employees, or (ii) if a service, construction or non-manufacturing firm, has 25 or fewer
27 employees and average annual gross receipts over the 3 previous years not exceeding
28 \$3,500,000, indexed for inflation.

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

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

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

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

42 SECTION XX. Section 57 of chapter 7 of the General Laws is hereby amended by
43 adding the following paragraphs:-

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

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

60 SECTION XX. Section 22O of chapter 7 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2020
61 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding the following paragraph:-

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

68 SECTION XX. Chapter 9 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
69 section 31 the following section:-

70 Section 32: MassMakers Portal

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

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

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

100 The state secretary, or a designee from among the members of the task force, and the secretary of

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

103 (c) The task force shall perform a needs and cost assessment and may, subject to
104 appropriation and the laws and regulations pertaining to the employment of consultants, employ
105 such consultants as the task force deems necessary to assist in the execution of said assessment.
106 Said assessment shall be completed and the results thereof shall be presented to the governor and
107 the general court by March 1, 2023, to inform the budget of the next legislative annual session.
108 The assessment shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

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

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

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

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

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

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

122 (vi) Supply Mass/Buy Mass information, and coordination with Supply Mass/Buy Mass
123 online services;

124 (vii) Mass Main Streets information, and coordination with Mass Main Streets online
125 services;

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

127 and

128 (ix) technical assistance resources;

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

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

135 (4) recommendations on the time-line for designing, developing and testing the
136 MassMakers Portal, which at the latest shall have its first testing phase for the state secretary's
137 office to process new business registrations and associated fee payments by December 31, 2023,
138 and shall have its second testing phase to submit tax payments with the department of revenue by
139 December 31, 2024;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

162 provided by law, all such appointments and removals of employees shall be made under chapter
163 31.

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

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

172 SECTION XX. Chapter 23A of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking out
173 section 10A and inserting the following section:-

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

205 (10) promote public-private partnerships;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

229 SECTION XX. Chapter 23A of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
230 section 13 the following section:-

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

353 SECTION XX. Chapter 23A of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
354 section 66 the following section:-

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

431 SECTION XX. Chapter 23A of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
432 section 68 the following section:-

433 Section 69: HÛRE MASS

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

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

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

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

455 (2) identifying entrepreneurial and microbusiness development needs and existing
456 resources and services;

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

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

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

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

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

470 (8) developing budget recommendations.

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

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

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

484 community development and small businesses, the joint committee on labor and workforce
485 development, and the joint committee on education.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

518 The request for proposals shall include:

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

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

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

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

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