

SENATE No. 887

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Adam G. Hinds

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying resolve:

Resolve establishing a task force to study racial disparities in home ownership and reducing the wealth gap.

PETITION OF:

| NAME: | DISTRICT/ADDRESS: | |
|----------------------------|---|------------------|
| <i>Adam G. Hinds</i> | <i>Berkshire, Hampshire, Franklin and Hampden</i> | |
| <i>Joanne M. Comerford</i> | <i>Hampshire, Franklin and Worcester</i> | <i>4/15/2021</i> |

SENATE No. 887

By Mr. Hinds, a petition (accompanied by resolve, Senate, No. 887) of Adam G. Hinds for legislation to establish a task force to study racial disparities in home ownership and reducing the wealth gap. Housing.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. 800 OF 2019-2020.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

Resolve establishing a task force to study racial disparities in home ownership and reducing the wealth gap.

1 **Resolved**, that there shall be a task force to study the racial disparities in home
2 ownership. The task force shall: (i) collect and analyze data concerning levels of home
3 ownership among minority racial and ethnic groups in Massachusetts; (ii) identify barriers to
4 home ownership that minority racial and ethnic groups in this state experience; (iii) investigate
5 current practices and procedures for approving mortgage loans; (iv) identify any mortgage loan
6 application and approval practices and procedures that deliberately or inadvertently discriminate
7 impermissibly against minority racial and ethnic groups or that directly or indirectly create or
8 maintain barriers against approving mortgage loans for minority racial and ethnic groups; (v)
9 identify barriers other than access to mortgage loans or other credit that reduce or prevent home
10 ownership among minority racial and ethnic groups.

11 The task force shall include: the Undersecretary of the Department of Housing and
12 Community Development or a designee who shall serve as chair; an appointee of the President of
13 the Senate; an appointee of the Senate Minority Leader; an appointee of the Speaker of the
14 House of Representatives; an appointee of the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives;
15 and 1 person to be appointed by each of the following organizations: the Massachusetts
16 Association of REALTORS; the Massachusetts Bankers Association; the National Association
17 for the Advancement of Colored People New England Area Conference; the Massachusetts
18 Commission Against Discrimination; the Rural Policy Advisory Commission; MassHousing; the
19 Massachusetts Housing Partnership; and the Massachusetts Black and Latino Legislative Caucus.

20 The task force may consult experts, conduct field investigations, hearing, or other
21 meetings, or solicit testimony to carry out its purpose.

22 The task force shall issue a report with recommended solutions, including legislation, to
23 modify practices or procedures for mortgage loan applications and approvals to eliminate any
24 impermissible discrimination or barriers and to improve other conditions that reduce or prevent
25 home ownership among minority racial and ethnic groups in Massachusetts. The task force shall
26 file its report with the clerks of the House of Representatives and Senate, the House and Senate
27 chairs of the joint committee on housing, the House and Senate chairs of the joint committee on
28 financial services, and the chairs of the Senate and House committees on ways and means no
29 later than July 1, 2023.