

HOUSE No. 410

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Carlos González and Estela A. Reyes

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

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

An Act relative to the development of the Massachusetts office of micro and minority-owned businesses.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Carlos González</i>	<i>10th Hampden</i>	<i>1/19/2023</i>
<i>Estela A. Reyes</i>	<i>4th Essex</i>	<i>1/20/2023</i>
<i>Bud L. Williams</i>	<i>11th Hampden</i>	<i>1/20/2023</i>
<i>Francisco E. Paulino</i>	<i>16th Essex</i>	<i>1/25/2023</i>
<i>Russell E. Holmes</i>	<i>6th Suffolk</i>	<i>1/25/2023</i>
<i>David Henry Argosky LeBoeuf</i>	<i>17th Worcester</i>	<i>1/25/2023</i>
<i>James C. Arena-DeRosa</i>	<i>8th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/25/2023</i>
<i>Kip A. Diggs</i>	<i>2nd Barnstable</i>	<i>1/26/2023</i>
<i>Frank A. Moran</i>	<i>17th Essex</i>	<i>1/26/2023</i>
<i>Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr.</i>	<i>12th Hampden</i>	<i>1/26/2023</i>
<i>Susannah M. Whipps</i>	<i>2nd Franklin</i>	<i>1/26/2023</i>
<i>John Barrett, III</i>	<i>1st Berkshire</i>	<i>1/26/2023</i>
<i>Lindsay N. Sabadosa</i>	<i>1st Hampshire</i>	<i>1/26/2023</i>
<i>Tram T. Nguyen</i>	<i>18th Essex</i>	<i>1/27/2023</i>
<i>Tackey Chan</i>	<i>2nd Norfolk</i>	<i>2/2/2023</i>
<i>Adrian C. Madaro</i>	<i>1st Suffolk</i>	<i>2/6/2023</i>
<i>Michelle M. DuBois</i>	<i>10th Plymouth</i>	<i>2/7/2023</i>

<i>Tricia Farley-Bouvier</i>	<i>2nd Berkshire</i>	<i>2/9/2023</i>
<i>Orlando Ramos</i>	<i>9th Hampden</i>	<i>2/13/2023</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	<i>2/16/2023</i>
<i>Manny Cruz</i>	<i>7th Essex</i>	<i>2/17/2023</i>
<i>Marcus S. Vaughn</i>	<i>9th Norfolk</i>	<i>3/13/2023</i>
<i>Rita A. Mendes</i>	<i>11th Plymouth</i>	<i>5/8/2023</i>

HOUSE No. 410

By Representatives González of Springfield and Reyes of Lawrence, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 410) of Carlos González, Estela A. Reyes and others relative to the development of micro and minority-owned businesses. Economic Development and Emerging Technologies.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court
(2023-2024)**

An Act relative to the development of the Massachusetts office of micro and minority-owned businesses.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 6A of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the
2 following after the word “program” in Section 16G:-

3 Section 16GG. (a) For the purposes of this act the following words and terms shall,
4 except where the context clearly indicates otherwise, have the following meaning:-

5 “Micro-business”, a business entity, which has its principal place of business in the
6 commonwealth, is independently owned and operated as a sole proprietorship, partnership, or
7 corporation, with 10 or fewer employees in full-time positions and with a level of gross income
8 from operations of not more than \$250,000 annually.

9 “Minority-business” or “Minority-owned business”, a business entity, which has its
10 principal place of business in the commonwealth, is independently owned and operated as a sole

11 proprietorship, partnership, or corporation, which is beneficially owned by one or more minority
12 owners as defined by the MOMMOB as a minority business.

13 (b) In the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development, there shall be a
14 Micro and Minority Business Strategy Department, or MOMMOB. Funded through 50% of
15 those funds appropriated annually to the community empowerment reinvestment grant program,
16 the MOMMOB is hereby constituted a public instrumentality and the exercise by the MOMMOB
17 of the powers conferred by this act shall be deemed to be the performance of an essential
18 governmental function and shall work to address the longstanding inequalities for minority
19 businesses owners in gateway communities by assisting in creating opportunities for
20 entrepreneurship.

21 (c) The MOMMOB Board shall consist of 9 members, one of whom shall be the
22 Secretary of Housing and Economic Development or a designee; one of whom shall be the
23 assistant secretary of business development or a designee; and one of whom shall be the
24 secretary of the executive office for administration and finance, or a designee. The governor shall
25 appoint the remaining six members, three of whom shall be residents of gateway communities
26 and micro business owners and three of whom shall be minority business owners. Each member
27 appointed by the governor shall serve a term of five years, except that in making initial
28 appointments the governor shall appoint one member to serve for a term of one year, one
29 member to serve for a term of two years, one member for a term of three years, two members for
30 a term of four years, and one member for a term of five years.

31 Any person appointed to fill a vacancy in the office of a member shall be appointed in a
32 like manner and shall serve for the duration of the member's office.

33 (d) The MOMMOB shall implement a micro business and minority business economic
34 development strategy separate from small business development to increase employment
35 gateway communities and to develop strategies to address the micro and minority business
36 community in urban areas.

37

38 (e) The MOMMOB shall have the power to: (1) Implement a micro business and minority
39 business economic development strategy; (2) Adopt by-laws for the regulation of its affairs and
40 the conduct of its business; (3) Adopt an official seal; (4) Sue and be sued in its own name; (4)
41 Make and execute contracts and all other instruments necessary or convenient for the exercise of
42 its power and functions; (5) Acquire, hold and dispose of personal property for its corporate
43 purposes; (6) Enter into agreements or other transactions with any federal or state agency; (7)
44 Acquire real property, or an interest therein, by purchase or foreclosure, where such acquisition
45 is necessary or appropriate to protect or secure any investment or loan in which the agency has
46 an interest; to sell, transfer and convey any such property to a buyer and in the event of such sale,
47 transfer or conveyance cannot be effected with reasonable promptness or at a reasonable price, to
48 lease such property to a tenant; (8) Employ a chief executive officer of the MOMMOB, and such
49 other agents, employees, professional and business advisers as may from time to time be
50 necessary in the judgment of the board of directors and to fix their compensation. The chief
51 executive officer, professional advisers and business advisers shall not be subject to the provision
52 of chapters 31 or 30.

53 (f) The director of the MOMMOB created by section 2 of this act shall submit 90 days
54 after the end of the fiscal year, to the clerk of the house of representatives and to the clerk of the
55 senate an annual report of the MOMMOB's activities.

56 (g) The accounts and books of the MOMMOB created by section 2 of this act, including
57 its receipts, disbursements, contracts, mortgages, investments and other matters relating to its
58 finances, operations and affairs shall be examined and audited from time to time by the state
59 auditor.

60 (h) The MOMMOB shall have the power to promulgate and adopt regulations to
61 implement the purposes of this act.

62 SECTION 2. Upon passage of this act, the MOMMOB shall be established on the first
63 day of the following fiscal year.