

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 493**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***Orlando Ramos***

*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 establishing the Puerto Rico trade commission.**

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Orlando Ramos</i>	<i>9th Hampden</i>	<i>1/15/2025</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 493**

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By Representative Ramos of Springfield, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 493) of Orlando Ramos for legislation to establish a Puerto Rico trade commission. Economic Development and Emerging Technologies.

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court  
(2025-2026)**

An Act establishing the Puerto Rico trade commission.

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

1 Chapter 23A of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the following section:-

2 Section 71. (a) There shall be a Massachusetts-Puerto Rico trade commission to  
3 strengthen the relationship between the commonwealth and Puerto Rico. The commission shall  
4 study and make recommendations on: (i) promoting trade, business and investment between the  
5 commonwealth and Puerto Rico; (ii) advancing policy issues of mutual interest to the  
6 commonwealth and Puerto Rico; (iii) creating economic, scientific, cultural and educational  
7 exchanges between the communities of the commonwealth and Puerto Rico; and (iv) any other  
8 matters that the commission deems appropriate.

9 (b) The commission shall consist of 15 members: 2 members to be appointed by the  
10 speaker of the house of representatives; 2 members to be appointed by the senate president; the  
11 secretary of economic development, or a designee; and 10 members to be appointed by the  
12 governor. The commission shall elect from among its members a chair.

13           (c) The members of the commission shall receive no compensation for their services, but  
14 shall be reimbursed for any unusual and customary expenses incurred in the performance of their  
15 duties. Members shall be considered special state employees for the purposes of chapter 268A.

16           (d) Annually, not later than June 30, the commission shall submit a report of its findings,  
17 including any legislative or policy recommendations, to the secretary of economic development,  
18 the clerks of the house of representatives and the senate and the joint committee on economic  
19 development and emerging technologies.