

HOUSE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Bud L. Williams

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 Expanding access to banking and commercial insurance for underserved microbusinesses and small businesses.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Bud L. Williams</i>	<i>11th Hampden</i>	<i>1/16/2025</i>

HOUSE No.

[Pin Slip]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act Expanding access to banking and commercial insurance for underserved microbusinesses and small 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 23A of the General Laws, is hereby amended by adding the
2 following section:-

3 Section 70: Establishing Microbusiness and Small Business Banking Access Working
4 Group

5 Section 70. (a) There shall be a microbusiness and small business banking access
6 advisory board, hereinafter referred to as the advisory board, to identify opportunities to improve
7 access to banking for microbusinesses and small businesses, including but not limited to socially
8 and economically disadvantaged enterprises and businesses and nonprofit organizations that
9 partner with or receive assistance from the executive office of economic development or the
10 Massachusetts development finance agency

11 (b) The advisory board shall consist of: the secretary of economic development or their
12 designee, who shall serve as chair; the executive director of the Massachusetts development

13 finance agency or their designee who shall serve as vice chair; the commissioner of banks or
14 their designee; the house and senate chairs of the joint committee on community development
15 and small business or their designees; the house and senate chairs of the joint committee on
16 financial services of their designees; the chair and vice chair of the black and latino legislative
17 caucus; the house and senate chairs of the caucus of women legislators; 1 member of the house
18 who shall be appointed by the minority leader; 1 member of the senate who shall be appointed by
19 the minority leader; the executive director of the commission on the status of women established
20 under section 66 of chapter 3 of the General Laws; the executive director of Coalition for an
21 Equitable Economy or their designee; the executive director of the Black Economic Council of
22 Massachusetts or their designee; the executive director of the Massachusetts Association of
23 Community Development Corporations or their designee; 1 person appointed by the governor
24 who shall own a small business and have experience or expertise related to reducing gender,
25 racial and economic disparities in economic development; 1 person appointed by the governor
26 who shall own a microbusiness business and have experience or expertise related to reducing
27 gender, racial and economic disparities in economic development; 1 person appointed by the
28 governor who should currently serve as executive director of a community development
29 corporation; 1 person appointed by the governor who should currently serve as executive director
30 of a community development financial institutions; 1 person appointed by the governor with
31 experience or expertise in nonprofit or other nontraditional lending; 1 person appointed by the
32 treasurer with experience or expertise leading the massachusetts small business banking
33 partnership; 1 person appointed by the treasurer with experience or expertise leading a business
34 support organization; and 1 person to be appointed by the commission on the status of women.

35 (c) The advisory board shall: (i) review and evaluate state and federal programs and
36 regulations related commercial banking access for microbusinesses and small businesses,
37 including but not limited to those that connect underserved small businesses with banking access
38 through business support organizations; (ii) analyze laws, regulations, and programs in other
39 states that encourage banking access for microbusinesses and small businesses, particularly
40 socially or economically disadvantaged enterprises, including data by race and other relevant
41 demographics; (iii) examine opportunities available within existing programs offered by the
42 executive office of economic development and the massachusetts development finance agency to
43 encourage recipients of capital or technical assistance to make connections with banks and other
44 financial institutions through business support organizations and state agencies; and (iv)
45 recommend policies to the executive office of economic development, the massachusetts
46 development finance agency, and the legislature to further encourage access to banking by
47 underserved microbusinesses and small businesses.

48 (d) The commission shall submit its report together with recommendations, if any, to the
49 clerks of the house of representatives and the senate not later than June 1, 2026.

50 SECTION 2. Chapter 23A of the General Laws, is hereby amended by adding the
51 following section:-

52 Section 71: Establishing Microbusiness and Small Business Commercial Insurance
53 Special Legislative Commission

54 Section 71. (a) There shall be a special legislative commission pursuant to section 2A of
55 chapter 4 of the General Laws to identify opportunities to improve access to commercial
56 insurance for microbusinesses and small businesses, including but not limited to socially and

57 economically disadvantaged enterprises and businesses and nonprofit organizations that partner
58 with or receive assistance from the executive office of economic development or the
59 massachusetts development finance agency.

60 (b) The special legislative commission shall consist of: the house and senate chairs of the
61 joint committee on community development and small business, who shall serve as co-chairs; the
62 house and senate chairs of the joint committee on financial services; the chair and vice chair of
63 the massachusetts caucus of black and latino legislators; the house and senate chairs of the
64 caucus of women legislators; 1 member of the house who shall be appointed by the minority
65 leader; 1 member of the senate who shall be appointed by the minority leader; the secretary of
66 economic development or their designee; the executive director of the massachusetts
67 development finance agency or their designee; the commissioner of insurance or their designee;
68 the commissioner of banks or their designee; the executive director of the commission on the
69 status of women established under section 66 of chapter 3 of the General Laws; the executive
70 director of Coalition for an Equitable Economy of their designee; the executive director of the
71 Black Economic Council of Massachusetts or their designee; the executive director of the
72 Massachusetts Association of Community Development Corporations or their designee; 1 person
73 appointed by the governor who shall own a small business and have experience or expertise
74 related to reducing gender, racial and economic disparities in economic development; 1 person
75 appointed by the governor who shall own a microbusiness business and have experience or
76 expertise related to reducing gender, racial and economic disparities in economic development; 1
77 person appointed by the governor who should currently serve as executive director of a
78 community development corporation; 1 person appointed by the governor who should currently
79 serve as executive director of a community development financial institutions; 1 person

80 appointed by the governor with experience or expertise in nonprofit or other nontraditional
81 lending; 1 person appointed by the treasurer with experience or expertise leading the
82 massachusetts small business banking partnership; 1 person appointed by the treasurer with
83 experience or expertise leading a business support organization; and 1 person to be appointed by
84 the commission on the status of women.

85 (c) The special legislative commission shall: (i) review and evaluate state and federal
86 programs and regulations related commercial insurance access for microbusinesses and small
87 businesses; (ii) analyze laws, regulations, and programs in other states that encourage
88 commercial insurance access for microbusinesses and small businesses, particularly socially or
89 economically disadvantaged enterprises, including data by race and other relevant demographics;
90 (iii) examine opportunities available within existing programs offered by the executive office of
91 economic development and the massachusetts development finance agency to encourage
92 recipients of capital or technical assistance to make connections with commercial insurance
93 through business support organizations and state agencies; and (iv) recommend policies to the
94 executive office of economic development, the massachusetts development finance agency, and
95 the legislature, to further encourage access to commercial insurance by underserved
96 microbusinesses and small businesses.

97 (d) The commission shall submit its report together with recommendations for
98 legislation, if any, to the clerks of the house of representatives and the senate not later than June
99 1, 2026.