



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
JOINT COMMITTEE ON STATE ADMINISTRATION AND
REGULATORY OVERSIGHT
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133

Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight

Rep. Antonio F. D. Cabral
House Chair

Sen. Nick Collins
Senate Chair

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Date of Hearing: Wednesday, October 29, 2025

Time: 10:30 AM-1:10 PM

Location: A-2 and Virtual

Matters concerning commissions.

Please be advised that the schedule and agenda are subject to change at the discretion of the chairs. Further, the Chairs may schedule an executive session to coincide with this hearing. Per Committee Rules, Joint Committee members will be given any advance notice and materials to review.

All House matters listed above shall be reported on by December 12, 2025, subject to extensions pursuant to House Rule 27.

ORAL TESTIMONY REGISTRATION:

Please be advised that legislators, appointed officials, and the public *must* register to provide oral testimony.

In-Person/Virtual: If you plan to testify **in-person** or **virtually**, please fill out the form at [this form](#) before the registration deadline: **5:00 PM on Monday, October 27, 2025.**

Please note that you may also register in person on the day of the hearing; a table with a sign-up form will be available outside the hearing room.

Those registered to testify will receive further instruction on how to participate remotely via email prior to the start of the hearing.

WRITTEN TESTIMONY SUBMISSIONS: Written testimony can be submitted via email to Nicole Janeiro at nicole.janeiro@mahouse.gov and Riley Nichols at riley.nichols@masenate.gov. We kindly ask that you indicate your position (support, oppose, or request for amendment) along with the bill number(s) in the subject line of testimony submission emails. Alternatively, testimony can be physically mailed to either the House or Senate Chair:

Chair Antonio F.D. Cabral
Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight
ATTN: Nicole Janeiro
24 Beacon St, Suite 466
Boston, MA 02133

Chair Nick Collins
Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight
ATTN: Riley Nichols
24 Beacon St, Room 511-A
Boston, MA 02133

Written testimony is encouraged and will continue to be accepted after the hearing until relevant bills are acted upon.

Please note that oral and written testimony submitted to the committee may be made publicly available, subject to the discretion of the Chairs and in accordance with committee rules. The committee may limit or redact testimony that includes sensitive personal information or information that may jeopardize the health, wellness or safety of the testifier or others.

LIVESTREAM: A livestream of this hearing will be available on the General Court website, <https://malegislature.gov/>

The hearing will be recorded and posted publicly on the Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight webpage at the following link: <https://malegislature.gov/Committees/Detail/J25/Hearings>

ACCESSIBILITY ACCOMMODATIONS:

The Committee will work to coordinate reasonable accommodations required to ensure that people with disabilities are able to participate fully in the hearing process. Requests for accessibility accommodations, such as assistive listening devices and systems, sign language interpreting services, closed captioning and transcription services, will be provided upon request. Requests for services should be submitted by completing the state house accessibility form, <https://malegislature.gov/StateHouse/AccessibilityForm/>.

You may contact committee staff with any questions by emailing Nicole Janeiro at nicole.janeiro@mahouse.gov or Riley Nichols at riley.nichols@masenate.gov.

Bill No.	Sponsor	Title
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Bill No.	Sponsor	Title
H3287	Ayers, Bruce J. (HOU)	An Act to form a special commission to conduct an audit on all abandoned state properties and determine the feasibility of repurposing them into drug addiction treatment facilities
H3310	Cusack, Mark J. (HOU)	An Act to study a post-conviction evidence retention facility
H3351	Howard, Vanna (HOU)	An Act promoting the civil rights and inclusion of American Muslims in the Commonwealth
H3368	Kearney, Patrick Joseph (HOU)	An Act establishing a special commission to investigate and study the feasibility of establishing a municipal building financing authority
H3376	Kushmerek, Michael P. (HOU)	An Act relative to the Massachusetts Poland Trade Commission
H3390	Moakley, Thomas W. (HOU)	An Act adding an indigenous member to the Massachusetts Historical Commission
H3398	Nguyen, Tram T. (HOU)	An Act to promote diversity on public boards and commissions
H3433	Vieira, David T. (HOU)	An Act relative to the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women
H3437	Walsh, Thomas P. (HOU)	Resolve establishing a commission on infrastructure resilience
H3971	Gallagher, Dennis C. (HOU)	An Act directing a study on the feasibility of placing registries of deeds for county governments that have not been abolished under the oversight of the secretary of the Commonwealth
S2134	Eldridge, James B. (SEN)	An Act promoting the civil rights and inclusion of American Muslims in the commonwealth
S2149	Fernandes, Dylan A. (SEN)	An Act adding an Indigenous member to the Massachusetts Historical Commission
S2155	Jehlen, Patricia D. (SEN)	An Act establishing a commission on the status of transgender people
S2160	Lewis, Jason M. (SEN)	An Act to ensure gender parity and racial and ethnic diversity on public boards and commissions
S2163	Lewis, Jason M. (SEN)	Resolve regarding revitalizing the right of free petition
S2164	Lewis, Jason M. (SEN)	An Act relative to improving boards and commissions
S2190	O'Connor, Patrick M. (SEN)	An Act establishing a special commission to study the feasibility of incorporating conductive concrete in future public works projects
S2191	O'Connor, Patrick M. (SEN)	An Act establishing a special commission to investigate and study the feasibility of establishing a municipal building financing authority

Bill No.	Sponsor	Title
S2196	Oliveira, Jacob R. (SEN)	An Act relative to the Massachusetts Poland Trade Commission
S2204	Rausch, Rebecca L. (SEN)	An Act promoting equality and respect in the legislature
S2226	Tarr, Bruce E. (SEN)	An Act establishing an emergency assistance shelter system oversight commission to continually evaluate all expenditures related to the system

Please be advised that the schedule and agenda are subject to change at the discretion of the chair per committee rules.

You may contact committee staff with any questions at (617) 722-2017 or (617) 722-1150.

Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight

Bill Summary

<u>BILL NUMBER</u>	House, No. 3287
<u>TITLE</u>	An Act to form a special commission to conduct an audit on all abandoned state properties and determine the feasibility of repurposing them into drug addiction treatment facilities
<u>SPONSORS</u>	Representative Ayers of Quincy
<u>HEARING DATE</u>	Wednesday, October 29, 2025 at 10:30 AM - 01:10 PM, A-2
<u>SIMILAR MATTERS</u>	None
<u>PRIOR HISTORY</u>	None
<u>CURRENT LAW</u>	Chapter 7C, establishing and outlining the duties and responsibilities of the Division of Capital Asset Managment and Maintenance
<u>SUMMARY</u>	Adds a new section 73 into Chapter 7C establishing a special commission on abandoned state properties tasked with determining the feasibility of repurposing abandoned state properties into drug addiction treatment facilities.

HOUSE No. 3287

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Bruce J. Ayers

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 to form a special commission to conduct an audit on all abandoned state properties and determine the feasibility of repurposing them into drug addiction treatment facilities.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Bruce J. Ayers</i>	<i>1st Norfolk</i>	<i>1/14/2025</i>

HOUSE No. 3287

By Representative Ayers of Quincy, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3287) of Bruce J. Ayers for legislation to establish a special commission to conduct an audit on all abandoned state properties and determine the feasibility of repurposing them into drug addiction treatment facilities. State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 3668 OF 2023-2024.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act to form a special commission to conduct an audit on all abandoned state properties and determine the feasibility of repurposing them into drug addiction treatment facilities.

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 7C of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the following section:-

2 Section 73. There is hereby established a special commission on abandoned state
3 properties to determine the feasibility of repurposing abandoned state properties into drug
4 addiction treatment facilities.

5 The special commission may conduct public hearings, forums or meetings to gather
6 information regarding the repurposing of abandoned state properties into drug addiction
7 treatment facilities.

8 Annually, on or before June 30, the commission shall submit a report to the governor and
9 the clerks of the house of representatives and the senate, along with recommendations, if any,
10 together with drafts of legislation necessary to carry those recommendations into effect. The
11 special commission may file such interim reports and recommendations as it considers
12 appropriate.

Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight

Bill Summary

<u>BILL NUMBER</u>	House, No. 3310
<u>TITLE</u>	An Act to study a post-conviction evidence retention facility
<u>SPONSORS</u>	Representative Cusack of Braintree
<u>HEARING DATE</u>	Wednesday, October 29, 2025 at 10:30 AM - 01:10 PM, A-2
<u>SIMILAR MATTERS</u>	None

PRIOR HISTORY

(2023-2024) H.3008: Accompanied study order, H.4675

(2021-2022) H.3119: Accompanied study order, H.4969

CURRENT LAW

Chapter 7C, establishing and outlining the duties and responsibilities of the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance

SUMMARY

DCAMM shall complete a feasibility study regarding the costs and benefits of constructing or leasing a post-conviction evidence retention facility in MA.

DCAMM shall consider several factors pertaining to the facility and shall consult with the Supreme Judicial Courts, state and local bars, attorneys, EOPSS and the MA Municipal Association.

The division shall file its report with the Senate President, House Speaker, and several committees.

HOUSE No. 3310

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Mark J. Cusack

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 to study a post-conviction evidence retention facility.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Mark J. Cusack</i>	<i>5th Norfolk</i>	<i>1/16/2025</i>

HOUSE No. 3310

By Representative Cusack of Braintree, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3310) of Mark J. Cusack for legislation to authorize the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance to complete a feasibility study and report regarding the costs and benefits of constructing or leasing a post-conviction evidence retention facility in the Commonwealth. State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 3008 OF 2023-2024.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act to study a post-conviction evidence retention facility.

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

1 The Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance is, within ninety days of the
2 passage of this bill, authorized and directed to complete a feasibility study and report regarding
3 the costs and benefits of constructing or leasing a post-conviction evidence retention facility in
4 Massachusetts.

5 In undertaking such study and completing said report, the Division shall consider the
6 possible multi-state utilization of such a facility, proximity to existing public safety or law
7 enforcement lab facilities, space for future expansion, privacy and security concerns, geographic
8 convenience, highway access, availability of town water and town sewer service, estimated
9 potential savings to the cities and towns of the Commonwealth, the advancement of criminal

10 justice in the Commonwealth, and such other matters as the Division deems helpful to the timely
11 completion of its report.

12 In conducting the study and in preparation of its report, the Division shall consult with
13 the Supreme Judicial Court, state or local bar associations, the Mass. Association of Criminal
14 Defense Attorneys, the District Attorneys of the Commonwealth, the Executive Office of Public
15 Safety, and the Mass. Municipal Association.

16 The Division shall file its report with the offices of the Senate President and the Speaker
17 of the House, the legislative Committees on State Administration, the Judiciary, Bonding and
18 Long-Term Debt, and the House and Senate Committees on Ways and Means.

Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight

Bill Summary

<u>BILL NUMBER</u>	House, No. 3351
<u>TITLE</u>	An Act promoting the civil rights and inclusion of American Muslims in the Commonwealth
<u>SPONSORS</u>	Representatives Howard of Lowell, Arciero of Westford, Connolly of Cambridge, Cruz of Salem, Decker of Cambridge, Gentile of Sudbury, Hong of Lowell, Kilcoyne of Clinton, Kushmerek of Fitchburg, Lewis of Framingham, Montaña of Boston, Sabadosa of Northampton, Scarsdale of Pepperell, Sena of Acton, Uytterhoeven of Somerville, and Worrell of Boston; Senator Lewis
<u>HEARING DATE</u>	Wednesday, October 29, 2025 at 10:30 AM - 01:10 PM, A-2
<u>SIMILAR MATTERS</u>	S2134 (Sen. Eldridge)
<u>PRIOR HISTORY</u>	
	(2023-224) H.3052: Favorable, referred to House Ways & Means
<u>CURRENT LAW</u>	
	Chapter 3, outlining the procedures of the General Court

SUMMARY

SECTION 1: This section creates a permanent commission of people who practice Islam consisting of 11 people. Members shall serve for 3 years and the members shall elect a chair, vice chair, a treasurer, and any other officers as needed. The commission shall be a resource to MA on issues affecting American Muslims in MA. The commission shall submit a report every year to the Governor and House and Senate Clerks.

The commission shall have the power to use voluntary and uncompensated services of private individuals, hold public meetings, establish and maintain an office, enact by-laws, and recommend policies. The commission may request information from state agencies. The commission may accept and solicit funds that will be deposited into an account with the Secretary of State. The commission shall hire and pay staff.

SECTION 2: This section lists appointments and terms.

SECTION 3: The executive director shall be appointed by the commissioners for a 3-year term.

SECTION 4: The bill will take effect on December 1, 2024.

HOUSE No. 3351

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Vanna Howard

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 promoting the civil rights and inclusion of American Muslims in the Commonwealth.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Vanna Howard</i>	<i>17th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/17/2025</i>
<i>James Arciero</i>	<i>2nd Middlesex</i>	<i>6/10/2025</i>
<i>Mike Connolly</i>	<i>26th Middlesex</i>	<i>3/28/2025</i>
<i>Manny Cruz</i>	<i>7th Essex</i>	<i>2/4/2025</i>
<i>Marjorie C. Decker</i>	<i>25th Middlesex</i>	<i>5/30/2025</i>
<i>Carmin Lawrence Gentile</i>	<i>13th Middlesex</i>	<i>3/14/2025</i>
<i>Tara T. Hong</i>	<i>18th Middlesex</i>	<i>3/12/2025</i>
<i>Meghan K. Kilcoyne</i>	<i>12th Worcester</i>	<i>7/23/2025</i>
<i>Michael P. Kushmerek</i>	<i>3rd Worcester</i>	<i>3/28/2025</i>
<i>Jack Patrick Lewis</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>	<i>6/17/2025</i>
<i>Jason M. Lewis</i>	<i>Fifth Middlesex</i>	<i>3/19/2025</i>
<i>Samantha Montaño</i>	<i>15th Suffolk</i>	<i>3/17/2025</i>
<i>Lindsay N. Sabadosa</i>	<i>1st Hampshire</i>	<i>3/16/2025</i>
<i>Margaret R. Scarsdale</i>	<i>1st Middlesex</i>	<i>7/16/2025</i>
<i>Danillo A. Sena</i>	<i>37th Middlesex</i>	<i>4/9/2025</i>
<i>Erika Uytterhoeven</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>	<i>4/16/2025</i>
<i>Christopher J. Worrell</i>	<i>5th Suffolk</i>	<i>7/14/2025</i>

HOUSE No. 3351

By Representative Howard of Lowell, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3351) of Vanna Howard, Manny Cruz and Tara T. Hong for legislation to create a permanent commission on the status of people who practice Islam. State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 3052 OF 2023-2024.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act promoting the civil rights and inclusion of American Muslims in the Commonwealth.

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 3 of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the following
2 section:-

3 Section 71. (a) There shall be a permanent commission on the status of people who
4 practice Islam consisting of 11 persons as follows: 2 persons appointed by the governor; 1 person
5 appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives; 1 person appointed by the president of
6 the senate; 1 person appointed by the attorney general; 2 persons appointed by the state
7 secretary; 2 persons appointed by the senate chair of the Massachusetts general court’s joint
8 committee on racial equity, civil rights, and inclusion; and 2 persons appointed by the house
9 chair of the Massachusetts general court’s joint committee on racial equity, civil rights, and
10 inclusion. Members of the commission shall reside in the commonwealth who have

11 demonstrated a commitment to the Muslim American community. Members shall be subject to
12 the provisions of chapter 268A as they apply to special state employees.

13 (b) Members shall serve terms of 3 years and until their successors are appointed.
14 Vacancies in the membership of the commission shall be filled by the original appointing
15 authority for the balance of the unexpired term. Nominations for members shall be solicited by
16 the appointing authorities between August 1 and September 16 of each year through an open
17 application process using a uniform application that is widely distributed throughout the state.

18 (c) The commission shall elect from among its members a chair, a vice chair, a treasurer
19 and any other officers it considers necessary. The members of the commission shall receive no
20 compensation for their services, provided however, that they shall be reimbursed for any usual
21 and customary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

22 (d) The commission shall be a resource to the commonwealth on issues affecting
23 American Muslim communities in the commonwealth. In furtherance of that responsibility, the
24 commission shall: (1) promote research and serve as a clearinghouse and source of information
25 on issues pertaining to American Muslims in the commonwealth; (2) inform the public and
26 leaders of business, education, human services, health care, state and local governments and the
27 communications media of the unique cultural, social, ethnic, economic and educational issues
28 affecting American Muslims in the commonwealth; (3) foster unity among the American Muslim
29 community and organizations in the commonwealth by promoting cooperation and sharing of
30 information and encouraging collaboration and joint activities; (4) serve as a liaison between
31 government and private interest groups with regard to matters of unique interest and concern to
32 American Muslims in the commonwealth; (5) identify and recommend qualified American

33 Muslims for appointive positions at all levels of government, including boards and commissions,
34 as the commission considers necessary and appropriate; (6) assess programs and practices in all
35 state agencies as they affect American Muslims, as the commission considers necessary and
36 appropriate; (7) advise executive and legislative bodies on the potential effect on American
37 Muslims of proposed legislation, as the commission considers necessary and appropriate; and (8)
38 generally undertake activities designed to enable the commonwealth to realize the full benefit of
39 the skills, talents and cultural heritage of American Muslims in the commonwealth.

40 (e) The commission shall annually, on or before June 2, report the results of its findings
41 and activities of the preceding year and its recommendations to the governor and to the clerks of
42 the senate and house of representatives.

43 (f) The powers of the commission shall include, but not be limited, to: (1) using the
44 voluntary and uncompensated services of private individuals, agencies and organizations that
45 may from time to time be offered and needed, including the provision of meeting places and
46 refreshments; (2) holding regular, public meetings and holding fact-finding hearings and other
47 public forums as it considers necessary; (3) directing staff to perform its duties; (4) establishing
48 and maintaining offices that it considers necessary, subject to appropriation; (5) enacting by-laws
49 for its own governance that are not inconsistent with any general or special law; and (6)
50 recommending policies and making recommendations to agencies and officers of the state and
51 local subdivisions of government to effectuate the purposes of subsection (d).

52 (g) The commission may request from all state agencies whatever information and
53 assistance the commission requires.

54 (h) The commission may accept and solicit funds, including any gifts, donations, grants,
55 or bequests, or any federal funds for any of the purposes of this section. These funds shall be
56 deposited in a separate account with the state secretary's office, be received by the state secretary
57 on behalf of the commonwealth, and be expended by the commission in accordance with law.

58 (i) The commission staff shall consist of a paid executive director, employees and
59 volunteers who assist the commission in effecting its statutory duties. The commission shall
60 appoint the executive director for a term of 3 years.

61 SECTION 2. Notwithstanding section 1, the initial members of the American Muslim
62 commission shall be appointed for the following terms:-

63 (a) The governor shall appoint, on or before December 1, 2024 2 members, each for a
64 term of 3 years.

65 (b) The attorney general shall appoint, on or before December 1, 2024, 1 member for a
66 term of 3 years.

67 (c) The speaker of the house of representatives shall appoint, on or before December 1,
68 2024, 1 member for a term of 3 years.

69 (d) The president of the senate shall appoint, on or before December 1 2024, 1 member
70 for a term of 3 years.

71 (e) The state secretary shall appoint, on or before December 1, 2024, 2 members, each for
72 a term of 3 years.

73 (f) The chair of the Senate committee on racial equity, civil rights shall appoint, on or
74 before December 1, 2024, 2 members, each for a term of 3 years.

75 (g) The chair of the House committee on racial equity, civil rights shall appoint, on or
76 before December 1, 2024, 2 members, each for a 3 year term.

77 SECTION 3. The executive director of the American Muslim commission, established by
78 section 1, shall initially be appointed by the commissioners for the term of 3 years on or before
79 December 1, 2025.

80 SECTION 4. Sections 1 to 3, inclusive, shall take effect on December 1, 2024.

Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight

Bill Summary

<u>BILL NUMBER</u>	House, No. 3368
<u>TITLE</u>	An Act establishing a special commission to investigate and study the feasibility of establishing a municipal building financing authority
<u>SPONSORS</u>	Representative Kearney of Scituate
<u>HEARING DATE</u>	Wednesday, October 29, 2025 at 10:30 AM - 01:10 PM, A-2
<u>SIMILAR MATTERS</u>	None

PRIOR HISTORY

(2023-24) H.3067: Accompanied study order, H.4675

(2021-22) H.3186: Accompanied study order, S.2620

CURRENT LAW

Chapter 4, Section 2A: Special legislative commissions -establishes standard operating framework for special commissions created by the legislature to investigate and study specific matters

Special legislative commissions are subject to:

- Designation of legislative members by the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House, if applicable
- Provision of office space in the State House or elsewhere
- Authority to expend appropriated funds for expenses and expert, legal, clerical, or other assistance
- Permission to travel within the Commonwealth
- Power to hold public hearings
- Obligation to report findings and recommendations to the General Court, including drafts of legislation
- Requirement to submit a final report by:
 - the last Wednesday in January if established or continued in an odd-numbered year
 - the last Wednesday in December if established or continued in an even-numbered year

- Ability to submit interim reports as needed
- Requirement that meetings be open to the public, unless a majority votes otherwise
- Requirement to file and publicly post meeting notices at least 24 hours in advance (excluding weekends and holidays)
- Continuation of all previously granted powers and duties if the commission is revived or extended

SUMMARY

SECTION 1: Establishes a special commission to investigate and study the feasibility of establishing a municipal building finance authority.

SECTION 2: Outlines the responsibilities of the commission studying the feasibility of a municipal building finance authority. It must review relevant state and federal reports, explore funding sources for grants and loans to municipalities, and evaluate innovative financing strategies for constructing municipal buildings such as senior centers, public safety facilities, and town halls.

The commission is also tasked with defining the potential powers of such an authority, including offering technical assistance, conducting needs assessments, and recommending legislation to support its creation.

Establishes the composition of the Municipal Building Finance Commission, consisting of 13 members. These include legislators appointed by House and Senate leadership, key state officials or their designees, the executive director of the school building authority, and a representative from the Massachusetts Municipal Association. The commission brings together legislative, executive, and municipal perspectives to guide its study.

Appointments must be made within 90 days of the act's effective date, and members will serve until the commission completes its report.

SECTION 3: Requires the commission to submit its study findings, along with any recommendations and draft legislation, to the Massachusetts General Court by December 31, 2023, filing the report with the clerks of both the Senate and House of Representatives.

HOUSE No. 3368

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Patrick Joseph Kearney

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 a special commission to investigate and study the feasibility of establishing a municipal building financing authority.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Patrick Joseph Kearney</i>	<i>4th Plymouth</i>	<i>1/7/2025</i>

HOUSE No. 3368

By Representative Kearney of Scituate, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3368) of Patrick Joseph Kearney for legislation to provide for an investigation by a special commission (including members of the General Court) relative to establishing a municipal building finance authority. State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 3067 OF 2023-2024.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act establishing a special commission to investigate and study the feasibility of establishing a municipal building financing authority.

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. There is hereby established a special commission to investigate and study
2 the feasibility of establishing a municipal building finance authority.

3 SECTION 2. The commission shall: (1) consider recommendations from state and federal
4 reports, relative to the establishment of a municipal building finance authority; (2) identify and
5 consider state and private funding sources with consideration for providing grants and loans to
6 cities and towns for the planning, design, and construction of municipal buildings; (3) assess
7 innovative financing approaches for assisting municipalities in the planning and construction of
8 municipal buildings including, but not limited to, councils-on-aging facilities, public safety
9 facilities, town halls, and other municipal buildings or facilities; and (4) determine specific

10 powers of a municipal building finance authority including but not limited to (a) establishing
11 grant programs, (b) providing architectural or other technical advice and assistance to
12 municipalities, general contractors, subcontractors, construction or project managers, designers
13 and others in the planning, maintenance and establishment of municipal facilities; (c) perform or
14 commission a needs survey to ascertain the capital construction, reconstruction, maintenance and
15 other capital needs for municipal facilities in the commonwealth, and (d) recommend to the
16 general court legislation as necessary to further the purposes of establishing a municipal building
17 finance authority.

18 SECTION 2. The municipal building finance commission shall be comprised of the
19 following 13 members: 2 members of the senate appointed by the senate president; 2 members of
20 the house of representatives appointed by the speaker of the house; 1 member of the senate and 1
21 member of the house of representatives appointed by the minority leader of each; the state
22 treasurer or a designee, the secretary of administration and finance or a designee, the secretary of
23 public safety and security or a designee, the secretary of elder affairs or a designee; the secretary
24 of housing and economic development or a designee; the executive director of the school
25 building authority or a designee and a representative of the Massachusetts Municipal
26 Association.

27 The members of the commission shall be appointed not later than 90 days after the
28 effective date of this act and shall serve until the completion of the report.

29 SECTION 3. The commission shall report to the general court the results of its study
30 together with recommendations and drafts of legislation by filing the same with the clerks of the
31 senate and the house of representatives on or before December 31, 2023.

Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight

Bill Summary

<u>BILL NUMBER</u>	House, No. 3376
<u>TITLE</u>	An Act relative to the Massachusetts Poland Trade Commission
<u>SPONSORS</u>	Representative Kushmerek of Fitchburg; Senator Oliveira
<u>HEARING DATE</u>	Wednesday, October 29, 2025 at 10:30 AM - 01:10 PM, A-2
<u>SIMILAR MATTERS</u>	S.2196 (Sen. Oliveira– Identical)

PRIOR HISTORY

None

CURRENT LAW

Chapter 23A, Section 13U: Women’s rights history trail - establishes a Women's Rights History Trail Program in Massachusetts, led by the Executive Director of Travel and Tourism in coordination with the Secretary of Transportation. It authorizes the designation of historically significant sites related to women's rights and suffrage, the creation of educational materials and themed travel itineraries, and the installation of ceremonial signage along designated highways and trails.

SUMMARY

This legislation inserts a new section, (Section 13V), after Section 13U of Chapter 23A of the Massachusetts General Laws, establishing a Commission on Massachusetts Poland-Trade.

SECTION (a): establishes the Commission on Massachusetts Poland-Trade Commission within the international trade office to promote economic ties and strengthen relations between the Commonwealth and the Republic of Poland.

The commission is tasked with studying and recommending actions to boost bilateral trade, coordinate policy initiatives, support business and academic exchanges, encourage mutual investment, and create economic and educational opportunities in both regions.

SECTION (b): Outlines the composition and operations of the Commission on Massachusetts-Poland Trade. It consists of 21 members, including legislators, executive officials, higher education representatives, and individuals from Polish American organizations.

Appointments are made by legislative leaders, the governor, and the Polish consul general. Members must have experience or interest in Polish American affairs or trade relations. The commission elects its own officers, meets across the state, and operates with a quorum of majority members. Members serve without pay but may be reimbursed for expenses and are considered special state employees under ethics law.

SECTION (c): Requires the commission to submit a written annual report by August 31 each year to key state officials, including the governor and legislative leaders. The report must detail the commission's findings and may include legislative recommendations to advance its mission.

HOUSE No. 3376

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Michael P. Kushmerek

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 Massachusetts Poland Trade Commission.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Michael P. Kushmerek</i>	<i>3rd Worcester</i>	<i>1/16/2025</i>
<i>Jacob R. Oliveira</i>	<i>Hampden, Hampshire and Worcester</i>	<i>2/10/2025</i>

HOUSE No. 3376

By Representative Kushmerek of Fitchburg, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3376) of Michael P. Kushmerek and Jacob R. Oliveira for legislation to establish a commission on Massachusetts-Poland trade within the International Trade Office. State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to the Massachusetts Poland 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 inserting after section 13U the
2 following section:-

3 Section 13V. (a) There shall be established a commission on Massachusetts-Poland Trade
4 within the international trade office which shall advance and promote the economic interests of,
5 and strengthen the relationship between, the Commonwealth and the Republic of Poland. The
6 commission shall study, research and advance analyses, and make recommendations to: (i)
7 advance the bilateral trade and investments between the Commonwealth and the Republic of
8 Poland; (ii) initiate joint action on policy issues of mutual interest to the Commonwealth and
9 Republic of Poland; (iii) promote business and academic exchanges between the Commonwealth
10 and the Republic of Poland; (iv) encourage mutual economic support between; (v) further
11 investments in the infrastructure of the Commonwealth and the Republic of Poland; (vi) aid
12 communities in the Commonwealth and the Republic of Poland through the creation of economic

13 and educational opportunities, and; (vii) address such other issues as the commission deems
14 necessary.

15 (b) The commission shall consist of the following 21 members: 6 past or current
16 members of the house of representatives, 5 of whom shall be appointed by the speaker of the
17 house and 1 of whom shall be appointed by the minority leader of the house, 6 past or current
18 members of the senate, 5 of whom shall be appointed by the senate president and 1 of whom
19 shall be appointed by the minority leader of the senate; 6 members appointed by the governor, 1
20 of whom shall be the Polish consul general to New England, or a designee, 1 of whom shall be
21 the secretary of the Commonwealth, or a designee, 1 of whom shall be the secretary of economic
22 development, or a designee, 3 of whom shall be from an institute of higher education, but shall
23 not be affiliated with the same institution; and 3 of whom shall be appointed from a list of no less
24 than 5 persons submitted to the Governor by the Polish consul general to New England, all of
25 whom shall be from a public organization promoting Polish American affairs, but shall not be
26 affiliated with the same organization. All commission members shall be persons with knowledge
27 of or current or past involvement in organizations that promote Polish American affairs or shall
28 have interest in the well-being of trade relations between the Commonwealth and Republic of
29 Poland.

30 The members of the commission shall receive no compensation for their services but
31 shall be reimbursed for any unusual and customary expenses incurred in the performance of their
32 duties. Members shall be considered special state employees for the purposes of chapter 268A.

33 The commission shall elect from among its members a chair, a vice chair, a treasurer, and
34 any other officers it deems necessary.

35 The commission shall hold meetings at the places it designates throughout the state

36 A majority of the members of the commission shall constitute a quorum for the

37 transaction of business of the commission.

38 (c) The commission shall annually report its findings together with recommendations for

39 legislation, if any, to the governor, speaker of the house, senate president, the secretary of

40 economic development no later than August 31st for the immediately preceding fiscal year. The

41 report shall be in writing and include recommendations as deemed appropriate by the

42 commission to effectuate its purpose, as provided by this section.

Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight

Bill Summary

<u>BILL NUMBER</u>	House, No. 3390
<u>TITLE</u>	An Act adding an indigenous member to the Massachusetts Historical Commission
<u>SPONSORS</u>	Representatives Moakley of Falmouth and Badger of Plymouth
<u>HEARING DATE</u>	Wednesday, October 29, 2025 at 10:30 AM - 01:10 PM, A-2
<u>SIMILAR MATTERS</u>	S.2149 (Sen. Fernandes– Identical)

PRIOR HISTORY

None

CURRENT LAW

Chapter 9, Section 26: Massachusetts historical commission; establishment - establishes the Massachusetts Historical Commission within the Department of the Secretary of State. It defines the commission's membership structure, including appointments from state officials and historical organizations, and authorizes the commission to advise on, preserve, and inventory the Commonwealth's historical and archaeological assets. It also empowers the commission to appoint a state archaeologist, accept gifts, provide technical assistance, and disseminate historical information. Members serve without compensation but may be reimbursed for expenses.

SUMMARY

This legislation adds an Indigenous member to the Massachusetts Historical Commission and amends the language in Chapter 9, Section 26 of the Massachusetts General Laws to reflect this change.

SECTION 1: Strikes out the words "11 persons" and replaces it with the words "12 persons", enabling the state secretary to appoint one additional member to the Massachusetts Historical Commission.

SECTION 2: Updates nominee selection process language to reflect the change in Section 1 by adding representation for an Indigenous member of the Massachusetts Historical Commission—specifically, one individual nominated from a list of two, with each nominee submitted by one of the two federally recognized tribes in the Commonwealth.

HOUSE No. 3390

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Thomas W. Moakley

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 adding an indigenous member to the Massachusetts Historical Commission.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Thomas W. Moakley</i>	<i>Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket</i>	<i>1/16/2025</i>
<i>Michelle L. Badger</i>	<i>1st Plymouth</i>	<i>10/21/2025</i>

HOUSE No. 3390

By Representative Moakley of Falmouth, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3390) of Thomas W. Moakley relative to adding an indigenous tribal member to the Massachusetts Historical Commission. State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act adding an indigenous member to the Massachusetts Historical 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 SECTION 1. Section 26 of chapter 9 of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking
2 out the words “11 persons” and inserting in place thereof the following words:- 12 persons.

3 SECTION 2. Said section 9 is further amended by inserting the following after
4 “Antiquities”:- one from a list of two nominees, each nominee submitted by one of the two
5 federally recognized tribes in the Commonwealth.

Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight

Bill Summary

<u>BILL NUMBER</u>	House, No. 3398
<u>TITLE</u>	An Act to promote diversity on public boards and commissions
<u>SPONSORS</u>	Representatives Nguyen of Andover, Shand of Newburyport, Higgins of Leominster, Howard of Lowell, and Ramos of North Andover; Senator Eldridge
<u>HEARING DATE</u>	Wednesday, October 29, 2025 at 10:30 AM - 01:10 PM, A-2
<u>SIMILAR MATTERS</u>	S.2160 (Sen. Lewis – Identical)

PRIOR HISTORY

(2023-24) H.3095: Favorable, referred to House Ways & Means

CURRENT LAW

Chapter 30: General provisions relative to state departments, commissions, officers and employees - establishes general provisions governing the organization, powers, and responsibilities of state departments, commissions, officers, and employees.

SUMMARY

This legislation would amend Chapter 30 of the Massachusetts General Laws by adding a new section.

SECTION 1: Defines key terms used in the legislation related to diversity in public appointments. (i.e. “Diverse”, “Female”, “Underrepresented Minority”, “LGBTQ+”, and “Census Data”)

It clarifies that a “Diverse” individual is someone who self-identifies as Female, an Underrepresented Minority, or LGBTQ+. Each category is further defined based on self-identification, inclusive of gender identity, racial and ethnic background, and sexual orientation.

SECTION 2: Sets diversity goals for appointive state boards and commissions, directing that, unless otherwise specified by law, each body should aim to have at least 50% Female members and at least 30% members who are Underrepresented Minorities or LGBTQ+, or explain why these goals are not met.

After each decennial Census, the Governor’s office must update these percentages to reflect the actual demographics of Massachusetts.

SECTION 3: Requires appointing authorities to actively work toward meeting the diversity goals outlined in Section 2. They must make focused efforts to recruit diverse members by developing outreach plans and partnering with organizations that represent underrepresented groups.

SECTION 4: Establishes annual reporting requirements to track diversity on public boards and commissions. Each board and appointing authority must report demographic data on current members and applicants, including gender, minority status, and LGBTQ+ identity. The governor’s office must publish this data annually and require explanations from boards that do not meet diversity goals. All reported data must be aggregated to protect individual privacy.

HOUSE No. 3398

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Tram T. Nguyen and Dawne Shand

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 to promote diversity on public boards and commissions.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Tram T. Nguyen</i>	<i>18th Essex</i>	<i>1/9/2025</i>
<i>Dawne Shand</i>	<i>1st Essex</i>	<i>1/9/2025</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	<i>2/10/2025</i>
<i>Natalie M. Higgins</i>	<i>4th Worcester</i>	<i>8/6/2025</i>
<i>Vanna Howard</i>	<i>17th Middlesex</i>	<i>4/3/2025</i>
<i>Adrienne Pusateri Ramos</i>	<i>14th Essex</i>	<i>3/6/2025</i>

HOUSE No. 3398

By Representatives Nguyen of Andover and Shand of Newburyport, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3398) of Tram T. Nguyen, Dawne Shand and others for legislation to promote diversity on public boards and commissions. State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 3095 OF 2023-2024.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act to promote diversity on public boards and commissions.

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. Definitions

2 “Diverse”, an individual who self-identifies in one or more of the following categories:
3 Female, Underrepresented Minority, or LGBTQ+.

4 “Female”, an individual who self-identifies her gender as female, without regard to the
5 individual’s designated sex at birth.

6 “Underrepresented Minority”, an individual who self-identifies as one or more of the
7 following: Black or African American, Hispanic or Latinx, Asian, Native American, Alaska
8 Native, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, or two or more races or ethnicities, or such other
9 similar non-white categories as reported in the Census Data.

10 “LGBTQ+”, an individual who self-identifies as any of the following: lesbian, gay,
11 bisexual, transgender, or as a member of the queer community.

12 “Census Data”, the Decennial U.S. Census, performed by the U.S. Census Bureau every
13 ten years as mandated by Article I, Section 2 of the U.S. Constitution.

14 Section 2. (a) Every appointive board or commission of the state established by the Code,
15 if not otherwise provided by law, shall endeavor to have, or explain why it does not have, (1) at
16 least fifty percent members who self-identify as Female, and (2) at least thirty-percent members
17 who self-identify as an Underrepresented Minority or as LGBTQ+. For purposes of this section,
18 these percentages are met where the appointment of one additional Diverse member would cause
19 the board or commission to have a Diverse composition greater than the percentages required
20 herein.

21 (b) Not later than 120 days after the release of new Census Data, the governor’s office
22 shall amend the percentages in Section 2(a) where necessary to meet the following criteria:

23 (1) The percentage in Section 2(a)(1) shall reflect the female population in
24 Massachusetts, as reported by the Census Data.

25 (2) The percentage in Section 2(a)(2) shall reflect the percentage population in
26 Massachusetts of Underrepresented Minorities, as reported in the Census Data, plus the
27 percentage population of LGBTQ+, as reported by the Census Data.

28 Section 3. Each person responsible for appointing members to a board or commission
29 shall endeavor to ensure that, to the fullest extent possible, the composition of the board or
30 commission reflects the diversity goals set forth in Section 2. Appointing authorities shall make a

31 focused effort to appoint Diverse members to all boards and commissions, including but not
32 limited to, developing and implementing a plan to attract and recruit Diverse members; and
33 working with community-based and professional organizations with large networks of Diverse
34 individuals.

35 Section 4. (a) To track and measure progress, each public board and commission shall
36 identify and report to the governor's office at least once per fiscal year:

37 (1) the total number of current members;

38 (2) the total number of current members who self-identify as Female;

39 (3) the total number of current members who self-identify as an Underrepresented
40 Minority or LGBTQ+; and

41 (4) the total number of current members who self-identify as Female and as an
42 Underrepresented Minority or LGBTQ+.

43 (b) In addition, each appointing authority shall make reasonable efforts to identify and
44 report to the governor's office at least once per fiscal year:

45 (1) the total number of persons who applied or were nominated for appointment to each
46 public board or commission during the time period covered by the report;

47 (2) the total number of Females who applied or were nominated for appointment to each
48 public board or commission during the time period covered by the report;

49 (3) the total number of Underrepresented Minorities and LGBTQ+ individuals who
50 applied or were nominated for appointment to each public board or commission during the time
51 period covered by the report; and

52 (4) the total number of Females who are also Underrepresented Minorities and LGBTQ+
53 who applied or were nominated for appointment to each public board or commission during the
54 time period covered by the report.

55 (c) The governor's office shall publish at least once per fiscal year a report that separately
56 identifies for each public board and commission the data collected and reported by such board
57 and appointing authority pursuant to paragraphs (a) and (b) in this Section. If any board or
58 commission does not meet the diversity goals outlined in Section 2, the appointing authority
59 shall include an explanation for why the goals were not met and describe the efforts, if any, by
60 the appointing authority to increase the number of Diverse members on the board or commission.

61 (d) Any demographic data disclosed or released pursuant to this section shall disclose
62 only aggregated statistical data and shall not identify an individual applicant, nominee or
63 appointed board member or commissioner.

Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight

Bill Summary

<u>BILL NUMBER</u>	House, No. 3433
<u>TITLE</u>	An Act relative to the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women
<u>SPONSORS</u>	Representatives Vieira of Falmouth and Luddy of Orleans
<u>HEARING DATE</u>	Wednesday, October 29, 2025 at 10:30 AM - 01:10 PM, A-2
<u>SIMILAR MATTERS</u>	None

PRIOR HISTORY

None

CURRENT LAW

Chapter 3, Section 66: The General Court, Commission on the status of women; membership; powers; funding - establishes a permanent, independent state commission tasked with studying and promoting the status of women in Massachusetts, defines the commission's structure, appointment process, powers, duties, and reporting requirements, authorizing it to advise government bodies, assess policies, recommend qualified women for public roles, and collaborate with organizations statewide.

SUMMARY

This legislation amends Chapters 3, Section 66 of the Massachusetts General Laws by:

SECTION 1: Extending the deadline for the commission to report results of its findings from its ongoing study of matters concerning women by 29 days (i.e. from June 2 to June 31). The words "June 2" are therefore struck and replaced with "June 31".

SECTION 2: Adding the following clause: "Said account may be an interest bearing account. Any interest earned on the assets of the account shall also be credited to said account." to Subsection 6(b) of Section 66 of Chapter 3.

As it currently stands, Subsection 6(b) of Section 66 of Chapter 3 states:

"(b) The commission may accept and solicit funds, including any gifts, donations, grants or bequests or any federal funds, for any of the purposes of this section. Such funds shall be deposited in a separate account with the state treasurer, be received by said treasurer on behalf of the commonwealth, and be expended by the commission in accordance with law."

SECTION 3: Mandating that this act shall take effect upon passage.

HOUSE No. 3433

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

David T. Vieira and Hadley Luddy

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 Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>David T. Vieira</i>	<i>3rd Barnstable</i>	<i>1/16/2025</i>
<i>Hadley Luddy</i>	<i>4th Barnstable</i>	<i>1/16/2025</i>

HOUSE No. 3433

By Representatives Vieira of Falmouth and Luddy of Orleans, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3433) of David T. Vieira and Hadley Luddy relative to the Commission on the Status of Women. State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women.

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. Subsection 3 of section 66 of chapter 9 of the General Laws, as appearing
2 in the 2022 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out the words “June 2” and inserting
3 in place thereof the following words:- “July 31”.

4 SECTION 2. Subsection 6(b) of section 66 of chapter 3 of the Generals Laws, as
5 appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding the following clause:- “Said
6 account may be an interest bearing account. Any interest earned on the assets of the account
7 shall also be credited to said account.”.

8 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon passage.

Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight

Bill Summary

<u>BILL NUMBER</u>	House, No. 3437
<u>TITLE</u>	Resolve establishing a commission on infrastructure resilience
<u>SPONSORS</u>	Representative Walsh of Peabody
<u>HEARING DATE</u>	Wednesday, October 29, 2025 at 10:30 AM - 01:10 PM, A-2
<u>SIMILAR MATTERS</u>	None

PRIOR HISTORY

(2023-24) H.3218: Resolve Favorable & referred to Rules of Two Branches, acting concurrently; Ought to pass recommendation & referred to Ways & Means

CURRENT LAW

Chapter 4, Section 2A: Special legislative commissions - establishes standard operating framework for special commissions created by the legislature to investigate and study specific matters

Special legislative commissions are subject to:

- Designation of legislative members by the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House, if applicable
- Provision of office space in the State House or elsewhere
- Authority to expend appropriated funds for expenses and expert, legal, clerical, or other assistance
- Permission to travel within the Commonwealth
- Power to hold public hearings
- Obligation to report findings and recommendations to the General Court, including drafts of legislation
- Requirement to submit a final report by:
 - the last Wednesday in January if established or continued in an odd-numbered year
 - the last Wednesday in December if established or continued in an even-numbered year
- Ability to submit interim reports as needed

- Requirement that meetings be open to the public, unless a majority votes otherwise
- Requirement to file and publicly post meeting notices at least 24 hours in advance (excluding weekends and holidays)
- Continuation of all previously granted powers and duties if the commission is revived or extended

SUMMARY

SECTION 1A: Purpose of the commission

Accompanied by resolve, this legislation establishes a special commission on infrastructure resilience to study the security and reliability of utility and water supply systems across Massachusetts.

The commission is responsible for:

- Identifying security gaps and vulnerabilities
- Developing a strategic plan to address shortcomings
- Improving coordination among state and local agencies, utilities, and emergency responders

SECTION 1B: Duties of the Commission

The commission is tasked with:

- Investigating the current status of infrastructure resiliency
- Identifying and assessing security gaps and vulnerabilities
- Creating a plan and timeline for a statewide resilience needs assessment (led by the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security)
- Exploring best practices from industry, government, and experts
- Assessing the capacity of sectors to implement recommendations
- Reporting on additional relevant issues as determined by the commission

SECTION 1C: Membership

The commission will have 13 members, including:

- The Secretary of Public Safety and Security (chair)
- House and Senate chairs of the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities, and Energy
- Representatives from:
 - American Petroleum Institute
 - ISO-New England
 - Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities
 - Petroleum/natural gas pipeline industry
 - Telecommunications industry

- Electricity generation industry
- Appointees from the:
 - Governor
 - Speaker of the House
 - Senate President

The commission may consult external experts to support its work

SECTION 1D: Reporting Requirement

The commission must submit its final report and recommendations by July 31, 2026 to the:

- Clerks of the House and Senate
- House and Senate Committees on Ways and Means
- Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities, and Energy

SECTION 2: The act shall take effect upon its passage

HOUSE No. 3437

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Thomas P. Walsh

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 commission on infrastructure resilience.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Thomas P. Walsh</i>	<i>12th Essex</i>	<i>1/15/2025</i>

HOUSE No. 3437

By Representative Walsh of Peabody, a petition (accompanied by resolve, House, No. 3437) of Thomas P. Walsh for an investigation by a special commission (including members of the General Court) relative to infrastructure resilience. State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 3128 OF 2023-2024.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

Resolve establishing a commission on infrastructure resilience.

1 **Resolved**, (a) There shall be a special commission on infrastructure resilience for the
2 purpose of studying utility and water supply resilience in the commonwealth and shall include
3 but not be limited to: identifying gaps in security and developing a strategic plan to address
4 specific shortcomings, better protect existing infrastructure assets, and improve coordination
5 between state and local agencies, utilities, and emergency responders relevant to infrastructure
6 resilience in the commonwealth.

7 (b)The commission shall: (i) investigate the current status of infrastructure resilience in
8 the commonwealth; (ii) identify and assess gaps in security and vulnerabilities present in our
9 infrastructure; (iii) develop a plan and timeline to conduct a statewide infrastructure resilience
10 needs assessment, which shall be under the direction of the executive office of public safety and
11 security; (iv) explore best practices gleaned from industry trade groups, government bodies, and

12 experts; (v) assess current sector capacity for implementation of recommendations (vi) report on
13 other matters as the commission shall determine to be of relevance and priority.

14 (c) The commission shall consist of thirteen members: the secretary of the executive
15 office of public safety and security or a designee, who shall serve as chair; the house and senate
16 chairs of the joint committee on telecommunications, utilities, and energy or their designees, the
17 executive director of the American Petroleum Institute or a designee; the president of ISO-New
18 England or a designee; the chair of the Massachusetts department of public utilities or a
19 designee; three members to be appointed by the governor, provided that one member be from the
20 petroleum or natural gas pipeline industry; two members to be appointed by the speaker of the
21 house, provided that one appointee shall be a representative from the telecommunications
22 industry; and two members to be appointed by the president of the senate, provided that one
23 appointee shall be a representative from the electricity generating industry.

24 The commission may consult with relevant experts to support the commission's
25 objectives and the production of its report.

26 (d)The commission shall file its report and recommendations with the clerks of the senate
27 and house of representatives, the senate and house committees on ways and means, the joint
28 committee on telecommunications, utilities, and energy not later than July 31, 2026.

29 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight

Bill Summary

<u>BILL NUMBER</u>	House, No. 3971
<u>TITLE</u>	An Act directing a study on the feasibility of placing registries of deeds for county governments that have not been abolished under the oversight of the secretary of the Commonwealth
<u>SPONSORS</u>	Representative Gallagher of Bridgewater
<u>HEARING DATE</u>	Wednesday, October 29, 2025 at 10:30 AM - 01:10 PM, A-2
<u>SIMILAR MATTERS</u>	None

PRIOR HISTORY

None

CURRENT LAW

Chapter 4, Section 2A: Special legislative commissions - establishes standard operating framework for special commissions created by the legislature to investigate and study specific matters

Special legislative commissions are subject to:

- Designation of legislative members by the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House, if applicable
- Provision of office space in the State House or elsewhere
- Authority to expend appropriated funds for expenses and expert, legal, clerical, or other assistance
- Permission to travel within the Commonwealth
- Power to hold public hearings
- Obligation to report findings and recommendations to the General Court, including drafts of legislation
- Requirement to submit a final report by:
 - the last Wednesday in January if established or continued in an odd-numbered year
 - the last Wednesday in December if established or continued in an even-numbered year

- Ability to submit interim reports as needed
- Requirement that meetings be open to the public, unless a majority votes otherwise
- Requirement to file and publicly post meeting notices at least 24 hours in advance (excluding weekends and holidays)
- Continuation of all previously granted powers and duties if the commission is revived or extended

SUMMARY

This legislation establishes a special legislative commission under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 4, Section 2A. The new special legislation commission's purpose is to study whether it would be feasible and effective to place the registries of deeds—specifically those in counties not yet abolished—under the oversight of the Secretary of the Commonwealth. The commission is also authorized to gather public input as part of its study.

The membership structure of this new special legislative commission shall include:

- Co-chairs: The chairs of the Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.
- Legislative appointees:
 - 2 members appointed by the Speaker of the House
 - 2 members appointed by the President of the Senate
 - 1 member appointed by the House Minority Leader
 - 1 member appointed by the Senate Minority Leader
- Executive officials:
 - Secretary of the Commonwealth (or a designee)
 - Secretary of Administration and Finance (or a designee)
- Governor's appointees (3 total), including:
 - A current or former Register of Deeds
 - A representative from the Massachusetts Association of County Commissioners, Inc.

The commission shall submit a report, including any legislative recommendations, within 180 days of the act's effective date to the clerks of the House of Representatives and the Senate, who shall then forward it to:

- Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight
- House and Senate Committees on Ways and Means
- Executive Office for Administration and Finance

HOUSE No. 3971

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Dennis C. Gallagher

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 directing a study on the feasibility of placing registries of deeds for county governments that have not been abolished under the oversight of the secretary of the Commonwealth.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Dennis C. Gallagher</i>	<i>8th Plymouth</i>	<i>1/17/2025</i>

HOUSE No. 3971

By Representative Gallagher of Bridgewater, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3971) of Dennis C. Gallagher for an investigation by a special legislative commission (including members of the General Court) to study the feasibility and efficacy of placing the registries of deeds for county governments under the oversight of the State Secretary. State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act directing a study on the feasibility of placing registries of deeds for county governments that have not been abolished under the oversight of the secretary of the Commonwealth.

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

1 (a) There is hereby established, pursuant to section 2A of chapter 4 of the General Laws,
2 a special legislative commission to study the feasibility and efficacy of placing the registries of
3 deeds for county governments that have not been abolished under the oversight of the secretary
4 of the commonwealth. As part of the study, the special legislative commission may seek public
5 comments and input.

6 (b) The special legislative commission shall consist of the following members: the chairs
7 of the joint committee on state administration and regulatory oversight, who shall serve as co-
8 chairs for the commission; 2 members appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives;
9 2 members appointed by the president of the senate; 1 member appointed by the minority leader
10 of the house of representatives; 1 member appointed by the minority leader of the senate; the
11 secretary of the commonwealth or the secretary’s designee; the secretary of administration and

12 finance or the secretary's designee; and 3 members to be appointed by the governor, 1 of whom
13 shall be a current or former register of deeds and 1 of whom shall be a representative from the
14 Massachusetts Association of County Commissioners, Inc.

15 (c) Within 180 days after the effective date of this act, the special legislative commission
16 shall submit a report, including legislative recommendations, if any, to the clerks of the house of
17 representatives and senate, who shall forward the report to the joint committee on state
18 administration and regulatory oversight, the house and senate committees on ways and means
19 and the executive office for administration and finance.

Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight

Bill Summary

<u>BILL NUMBER</u>	Senate, No. 2134
<u>TITLE</u>	An Act promoting the civil rights and inclusion of American Muslims in the commonwealth
<u>SPONSORS</u>	Senators Eldridge, Kennedy, Lewis, Gómez, Comerford, Cronin, Miranda, Payano, Driscoll, Oliveira, Moore, and Jehlen; Representatives Howard of Lowell and Cruz of Salem
<u>HEARING DATE</u>	Wednesday, October 29, 2025 at 10:30 AM - 01:10 PM, A-2
<u>SIMILAR MATTERS</u>	H3351 (Rep. Vanna Howard)

PRIOR HISTORY

2023-24 (S. 1994): Reported favorably; referred to Committee on Rules of the Two Branches

CURRENT LAW

Chapter 3: The General Court

SUMMARY

This legislation establishes a commission on the status of people who practice Islam, consisting of 11 appointed members who serve a 3-year term. The commission shall be tasked with studying issues affecting Muslim communities, advising policymakers, promoting collaboration among Muslim organizations, recommending appointments, assessing legislation, and combating Islamophobia.

The commission must submit a yearly report of its findings to the legislature.

SENATE No. 2134

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

James B. Eldridge

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 promoting the civil rights and inclusion of American Muslims in the commonwealth.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	
<i>Vanna Howard</i>	<i>17th Middlesex</i>	
<i>Manny Cruz</i>	<i>7th Essex</i>	<i>2/27/2025</i>
<i>Robyn K. Kennedy</i>	<i>First Worcester</i>	<i>3/24/2025</i>
<i>Jason M. Lewis</i>	<i>Fifth Middlesex</i>	<i>3/24/2025</i>
<i>Adam Gómez</i>	<i>Hampden</i>	<i>4/18/2025</i>
<i>Joanne M. Comerford</i>	<i>Hampshire, Franklin and Worcester</i>	<i>4/18/2025</i>
<i>John J. Cronin</i>	<i>Worcester and Middlesex</i>	<i>6/11/2025</i>
<i>Liz Miranda</i>	<i>Second Suffolk</i>	<i>6/12/2025</i>
<i>Pavel M. Payano</i>	<i>First Essex</i>	<i>7/31/2025</i>
<i>William J. Driscoll, Jr.</i>	<i>Norfolk, Plymouth and Bristol</i>	<i>7/31/2025</i>
<i>Jacob R. Oliveira</i>	<i>Hampden, Hampshire and Worcester</i>	<i>7/31/2025</i>
<i>Michael O. Moore</i>	<i>Second Worcester</i>	<i>10/8/2025</i>
<i>Patricia D. Jehlen</i>	<i>Second Middlesex</i>	<i>10/29/2025</i>

SENATE No. 2134

By Mr. Eldridge, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2134) of James B. Eldridge, Vanna Howard and Manny Cruz for legislation to promote the civil rights and inclusion of American Muslims in the commonwealth. State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. 1994 OF 2023-2024.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act promoting the civil rights and inclusion of American Muslims in the commonwealth.

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 3 of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the following
2 section:-

3 Section 71. (a) There shall be a permanent commission on the status of people who
4 practice Islam consisting of 11 persons as follows: 2 persons appointed by the governor; 1 person
5 appointed by the attorney general; 1 person appointed by the speaker of the house of
6 representatives; 1 person appointed by the president of the senate; 2 persons appointed by the
7 state secretary; 2 persons appointed by the senate chair of the Massachusetts general court’s joint
8 committee on racial equity, civil rights, and inclusion; and 2 persons appointed by the house
9 chair of the Massachusetts general court’s joint committee on racial equity, civil rights, and
10 inclusion. Members of the commission shall reside in the commonwealth who have

11 demonstrated a commitment to the Muslim American community. Members shall be subject to
12 the provisions of chapter 268A as they apply to special state employees.

13 (b) Members shall serve terms of 3 years and until their successors are appointed.
14 Vacancies in the membership of the commission shall be filled by the original appointing
15 authority for the balance of the unexpired term. Nominations for members shall be solicited by
16 the appointing authorities between August 1 and September 16 of each year through an open
17 application process using a uniform application that is widely distributed throughout the state.

18 (c) The commission shall elect from among its members a chair, a vice chair, a treasurer
19 and any other officers it considers necessary. The members of the commission shall receive no
20 compensation for their services, provided however, that they shall be reimbursed for any usual
21 and customary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

22 (d) The commission shall be a resource to the commonwealth on issues affecting
23 American Muslim communities. In furtherance of that responsibility, the commission shall: (1)
24 promote research and serve as a clearinghouse and source of information on issues pertaining to
25 American Muslims in the commonwealth; (2) inform the public and leaders of business,
26 education, human services, health care, state and local governments and the communications
27 media of the unique cultural, social, ethnic, economic and educational issues affecting American
28 Muslims in the commonwealth; (3) foster unity among the American Muslim community and
29 organizations in the commonwealth by promoting cooperation and sharing of information and
30 encouraging collaboration and joint activities; (4) serve as a liaison between government and
31 private interest groups with regard to matters of unique interest and concern to American
32 Muslims in the commonwealth; (5) identify and recommend qualified American Muslims for

33 appointive positions at all levels of government, including boards and commissions, as the
34 commission considers necessary and appropriate; (6) assess programs and practices in all state
35 agencies as they affect American Muslims, as the commission considers necessary and
36 appropriate; (7) advise executive and legislative bodies on the potential effect on American
37 Muslims of proposed legislation, as the commission considers necessary and appropriate; and (8)
38 generally undertake activities designed to enable the commonwealth to realize the full benefit of
39 the skills, talents and cultural heritage of American Muslims in the commonwealth.

40 (e) The commission shall annually, on or before June 2, report the results of its findings
41 and activities of the preceding year and its recommendations to the governor and to the clerks of
42 the senate and house of representatives.

43 (f) The powers of the commission shall include, but not be limited, to: (1) using the
44 voluntary and uncompensated services of private individuals, agencies and organizations that
45 may from time to time be offered and needed, including the provision of meeting places and
46 refreshments; (2) holding regular, public meetings and holding fact-finding hearings and other
47 public forums as it considers necessary; (3) directing staff to perform its duties; (4) establishing
48 and maintaining offices that it considers necessary, subject to appropriation; (5) enacting by-laws
49 for its own governance that are not inconsistent with any general or special law; and (6)
50 recommending policies and making recommendations to agencies and officers of the state and
51 local subdivisions of government to effectuate the purposes of subsection (d).

52 (g) The commission may request from all state agencies whatever information and
53 assistance the commission requires.

54 (h) The commission may accept and solicit funds, including any gifts, donations, grants,
55 or bequests, or any federal funds for any of the purposes of this section. These funds shall be
56 deposited in a separate account with the state secretary's office, be received by the state secretary
57 on behalf of the commonwealth, and be expended by the commission in accordance with law.

58 (i) The commission staff shall consist of a paid executive director, employees and
59 volunteers who assist the commission in effecting its statutory duties. The commission shall
60 appoint the executive director for a term of 3 years.

61 Section 72. (a) The commission shall:

62 (i) Report on trends and data related to incidents of Islamophobia and discrimination
63 against American Muslims in the commonwealth;

64 (ii) Identify and evaluate existing efforts to combat Islamophobia and discrimination in
65 the commonwealth;

66 (iii) Identify best practices from efforts to combat Islamophobia in other states and
67 jurisdictions;

68 (iv) Evaluate the commonwealth's hate crime statutes and whether any amendments
69 would better protect residents from Islamophobia and other similar forms of hatred;

70 (v) Recommend implementation strategies, programs, and legislation to combat
71 Islamophobia in the commonwealth.

72 The commission shall submit a report of its study and recommendations to the clerks of
73 the house of representatives and the senate and the senate and house committees on ways and
74 means not later than November 30, 2026.

75 SECTION 2. Notwithstanding section 1, the initial members of the American Muslim
76 commission shall be appointed for the following terms:-

77 (a) The governor shall appoint, on or before December, 1, 2026, 2 members, each for a
78 term of 3 years.

79 (b) The attorney general shall appoint, on or before December 1, 2026, 1 member for a
80 term of 3 years.

81 (c) The speaker of the house of representatives shall appoint, on or before December 1,
82 2026, 1 member for a term of 3 years.

83 (d) The president of the senate shall appoint, on or before December 1 2026, 1 member
84 for a term of 3 years.

85 (e) The state secretary shall appoint, on or before December 1, 2026, 2 members, each for
86 a term of 3 years.

87 (f) The chair of the Senate committee on racial equity, civil rights shall appoint, on or
88 before December 1, 2026, 2 members, each for a term of 3 years.

89 (g) The chair of the House committee on racial equity, civil rights shall appoint, on or
90 before December 1, 2026, 2 members, each for a 3 year term.

91 SECTION 3. The executive director of the American Muslim commission, established by
92 section 1, shall initially be appointed by the commissioners for the term of 3 years on or before
93 December 1, 2026.

94 SECTION 4. Sections 1 to 3, inclusive, shall take effect on December 1, 2026.

Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight

Bill Summary

<u>BILL NUMBER</u>	Senate, No. 2149
<u>TITLE</u>	An Act adding an Indigenous member to the Massachusetts Historical Commission
<u>SPONSORS</u>	Senator Fernandes
<u>HEARING DATE</u>	Wednesday, October 29, 2025 at 10:30 AM - 01:10 PM, A-2
<u>SIMILAR MATTERS</u>	H3390 (Rep. Thomas Moakley)

CURRENT LAW

Section 26 of Chapter 9: Massachusetts historical commission; establishment

SUMMARY

This legislation adds an indigenous member from a federally recognized tribe to the Massachusetts Historical Commission.

SENATE No. 2149

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Dylan A. Fernandes

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 adding an Indigenous member to the Massachusetts Historical Commission.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Dylan A. Fernandes

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Plymouth and Barnstable

SENATE No. 2149

By Mr. Fernandes, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2149) of Dylan A. Fernandes for legislation to add an Indigenous member to the Massachusetts Historical Commission. State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act adding an Indigenous member to the Massachusetts Historical 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 SECTION 1. Section 26 of chapter 9 of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking
2 out the words “11 persons” and inserting in place thereof the following words:- 12 persons.

3 SECTION 2. Said section 9 is further amended by inserting the following after
4 “Antiquities”:- one from a list of two nominees, each nominee submitted by one of the two
5 federally recognized tribes in the commonwealth.

Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight

Bill Summary

<u>BILL NUMBER</u>	Senate, No. 2155
<u>TITLE</u>	An Act establishing a commission on the status of transgender people
<u>SPONSORS</u>	Senators Jehlen, Eldridge, Comerford, Kennedy, DiDomenico, and Keenan; Representatives Sabadosa of Northampton, Domb of Amherst, and Lawn of Watertown
<u>HEARING DATE</u>	Wednesday, October 29, 2025 at 10:30 AM - 01:10 PM, A-2

CURRENT LAW

Chapter 3: The General Court

SUMMARY

This legislation establishes a permanent commission on the status of transgender people, composed of 20 members who serve a three-year term. The members will be appointed by a diverse range of organizations focused on improving the lives of transgender people.

The commission shall be tasked with studying, reporting, and advocating for the status and rights of transgender people across the Commonwealth. Additionally, they will advise policymakers, facilitate collaboration between local transgender organizations, recommend appointments, and hold monthly public meetings. It may also receive and manage funds, hire staff, and establish regional bylaws.

A findings report must be submitted each year.

SENATE No. 2155

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Patricia D. Jehlen

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 a commission on the status of transgender people.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Patricia D. Jehlen</i>	<i>Second Middlesex</i>	
<i>Lindsay N. Sabadosa</i>	<i>1st Hampshire</i>	<i>2/24/2025</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	<i>3/10/2025</i>
<i>Joanne M. Comerford</i>	<i>Hampshire, Franklin and Worcester</i>	<i>3/10/2025</i>
<i>Mindy Domb</i>	<i>3rd Hampshire</i>	<i>3/17/2025</i>
<i>Robyn K. Kennedy</i>	<i>First Worcester</i>	<i>9/2/2025</i>
<i>Sal N. DiDomenico</i>	<i>Middlesex and Suffolk</i>	<i>9/15/2025</i>
<i>John F. Keenan</i>	<i>Norfolk and Plymouth</i>	<i>10/2/2025</i>
<i>John J. Lawn, Jr.</i>	<i>10th Middlesex</i>	<i>10/28/2025</i>

SENATE No. 2155

By Ms. Jehlen, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2155) of Patricia D. Jehlen, Lindsay N. Sabadosa, James B. Eldridge and Joanne M. Comerford for legislation to establish a permanent commission on the status of transgender people to conduct an ongoing study of all matters concerning transgender people. State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act establishing a commission on the status of transgender people.

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 3 of the Massachusetts General Laws, as appearing in the 2022 edition, is hereby
2 amended by inserting after Section 75 the following new section:-

3 Section 76

4 (1) There is established a permanent commission on the status of transgender people
5 consisting of 20 persons as follows: 5 persons appointed by transgender-led organizations or
6 groups that directly serve, support, or advocate for transgender people in Massachusetts; 2
7 persons appointed by transgender-focused health programs at Massachusetts-based healthcare
8 centers and/or hospitals; 2 persons appointed by an organization or group that supports LGBTQ+
9 elders; 2 persons appointed by an organization or group that supports LGBTQ+ students; 2
10 person appointed by an organization or group that supports LGBTQ+ individuals with
11 homelessness or unstable housing; 1 person appointed by an organization or group that supports

12 LGBTQ+ people with domestic and/or intimate partner violence; 1 person appointed by an
13 organization or group that supports LGBTQ+ incarcerated or formerly incarcerated people; 1
14 person appointed by an organization or group that supports LGBTQ+ sex workers; 1 person
15 appointed by an organization or group that supports LGBTQ+ people with disabilities; 1 person
16 appointed by an organization or group that supports LGBTQ+ individuals with immigration,
17 seeking asylum/refugee status, or other non-citizen statuses; 1 person appointed by an
18 antipoverty organization or group that supports LGBTQ+ individuals; and 1 person appointed by
19 an organization or group that supports LGBTQ+ veterans. The membership of the commission
20 shall include at least: 10 transgender persons, total; 2 transgender persons between the ages of
21 18-24; 2 transgender persons aged 60 or older; and 2 representatives of the mental health
22 professions.

23 (2) Members of the commission shall be drawn from diverse racial, ethnic, religious, age,
24 gender, sexual orientation and socio-economic backgrounds and shall have had experience
25 working toward the improvement of the status of transgender people in society. Members shall
26 also be drawn from throughout the commonwealth to ensure broad representation. Members
27 shall be subject to the provisions of chapter 268A as they apply to special state employees. The
28 commission shall be an independent agency of the government of the commonwealth and shall
29 not be subject to the control of any other department or agency.

30 (3) (a) Members shall serve terms of three years and until their successors are appointed.

31 (b) Vacancies in the membership of the commission shall be filled by the original
32 appointing authority for the balance of the unexpired term.

33 (c) appointments shall be made in consultation with transgender rights organizations.
34 Nominations shall be solicited between August 1 and September 16 of each year through an open
35 application process using a uniform application that is widely distributed throughout the state.

36 (d) The commission shall elect from among its members a chair, a vice chair, a treasurer
37 and any other officers it deems necessary.

38 (e) The members of the commission shall receive no compensation for their services, but
39 shall be reimbursed for any usual and customary expenses incurred in the performance of their
40 duties.

41 (4) The commission shall conduct an ongoing study of all matters concerning transgender
42 people. In furtherance of that responsibility, the commission shall: (a) study, review and report
43 on the status of transgender people in the commonwealth;

44 (b) inform leaders of business, education, health care, state and local governments and the
45 communications media of issues pertaining to transgender people;

46 (c) serve as a liaison between government and private interest groups concerned with
47 issues affecting transgender people;

48 (d) serve as a clearinghouse for information on issues pertaining to transgender people;

49 (e) identify and recommend qualified transgender people for appointive positions at all
50 levels of government, including boards and commissions, as the commission deems necessary
51 and appropriate;

52 (f) assess programs and practices in all state agencies as they affect transgender people,
53 as the commission deems necessary and appropriate;

54 (g) advise executive and legislative bodies on the effect on transgender people of
55 proposed legislation, as the commission deems necessary and appropriate; and

56 (h) promote and facilitate collaboration among local transgender commissions and among
57 transgender organizations in the state, as the commission deems necessary and appropriate.

58 The commission shall annually, on or before June 2, report the results of its findings and
59 activities of the preceding year and its recommendations to the governor and to the clerks of the
60 senate and house of representatives.

61 (5) The powers of the commission shall include but not be limited to the following:

62 (a) to use such voluntary and uncompensated services of private individuals, agencies and
63 organizations as may from time to time be offered and needed;

64 (b) to recommend policies and make recommendations to agencies and officers of the
65 state and local subdivisions of government to effectuate the purposes of subsection (3);

66 (c) to select an executive director and to acquire adequate staff to perform its duties,
67 subject to appropriation;

68 (d) to establish and maintain such offices as it may deem necessary, subject to
69 appropriation;

70 (e) to enact bylaws for its own governance;

71 (f) to appoint members to regional chapters of the commission; and

72 (g) to hold regular, public meetings and to hold fact-finding hearings and other public
73 forums as it may deem necessary.

74 (6) The commission shall meet once every month. The (i) governor, (ii) speaker of the
75 house of representatives, (iii) president of the senate and (iv) designated members of the
76 LGBTQ+ caucus of legislators shall be invited to attend the monthly meetings on a rotating
77 basis.

78 (7) (a) The commission may request from all state agencies such information and
79 assistance as the commission may require.

80 (b) The commission may accept and solicit funds, including any gifts, donations, grants
81 or bequests or any federal funds, for any of the purposes of this section. Such funds shall be
82 deposited in a separate account with the state treasurer, be received by said treasurer on behalf of
83 the commonwealth, and be expended by the commission in accordance with law.

Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight

Bill Summary

<u>BILL NUMBER</u>	Senate, No. 2160
<u>TITLE</u>	An Act to ensure gender parity and racial and ethnic diversity on public boards and commissions
<u>SPONSORS</u>	Senators Lewis, Eldridge, and Keenan
<u>HEARING DATE</u>	Wednesday, October 29, 2025 at 10:30 AM - 01:10 PM, A-2

PRIOR HISTORY

2023-24 (S2016): Reported favorably; referred to Senate Ways and Means

SUMMARY

This legislation aims to improve diversity on state boards and commissions. If a commission does not have at least 50% members who identify as female and 30% who identify as an underrepresented minority, it must offer an explanation and describe the actions that are being taken to improve representation. These percentages must be amended to mirror current census data.

To track progress, each public board and commission must identify and report its current demographic data on members and applicants.

SENATE No. 2160

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Jason M. Lewis

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 to ensure gender parity and racial and ethnic diversity on public boards and commissions.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Jason M. Lewis</i>	<i>Fifth Middlesex</i>	
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	<i>2/11/2025</i>
<i>John F. Keenan</i>	<i>Norfolk and Plymouth</i>	<i>4/23/2025</i>

SENATE No. 2160

By Mr. Lewis, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2160) of Jason M. Lewis and James B. Eldridge for legislation to ensure gender parity and racial and ethnic diversity on public boards and commissions. State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. 2016 OF 2023-2024.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act to ensure gender parity and racial and ethnic diversity on public boards and commissions.

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. Definitions.

2 “Diverse” means an individual who self-identifies in one or more of the following
3 categories: Female, Underrepresented Minority, or LGBTQ+.

4 “Female” means an individual who self-identifies her gender as female, without regard to
5 the individual’s designated sex at birth.

6 “Underrepresented Minority” means an individual who self-identifies as one or more of
7 the following: Black or African American, Hispanic or Latinx, Asian, Native American, Alaska
8 Native, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, or two or more races or ethnicities, or such other
9 similar non-white categories as reported in the Census Data.

10 “LGBTQ+” means an individual who self-identifies as any of the following: lesbian, gay,
11 bisexual, transgender, or as a member of the queer community.

12 “Census Data” means the Decennial U.S. Census, performed by the U.S. Census Bureau
13 every ten years as mandated by Article I, Section 2 of the Constitution.

14 SECTION 2. (a) Every appointive board or commission of the state established by the
15 Code, if not otherwise provided by law, shall endeavor to have, or explain why it does not have,
16 (1) at least fifty percent members who self-identify as Female, and (2) at least thirty-percent
17 members who self-identify as an Underrepresented Minority or as LGBTQ+. For purposes of this
18 section, these percentages are met where the appointment of one additional Diverse member
19 would cause the board or commission to have a Diverse composition greater than the percentages
20 required herein.

21 (b) Not later than 120 days after the release of new Census Data, the governor’s office
22 shall amend the percentages in Section 1(a) where necessary to meet the following criteria:

23 (1) The percentage in Section 1(a)(1) shall reflect the female population in
24 Massachusetts, as reported by the Census Data.

25 (2) The percentage in Section 1(a)(2) shall reflect the percentage population in
26 Massachusetts of Underrepresented Minorities, as reported in the Census Data, plus the
27 percentage population of LGBTQ+, as reported by the Census Data.

28 SECTION 3. Each person responsible for appointing members to a board or commission
29 shall endeavor to ensure that, to the fullest extent possible, the composition of the board or
30 commission reflects the diversity goals set forth in Section 1. Appointing authorities shall make

31 a focused effort to appoint Diverse members to all boards and commissions, including but not
32 limited to, developing and implementing a plan to attract and recruit Diverse members; and
33 working with community-based and professional organizations with large networks of Diverse
34 individuals.

35 SECTION 4. (a) To track and measure progress, each public board and commission shall
36 identify and report to the governor's office at least once per fiscal year:

37 (1) the total number of current members;

38 (2) the total number of current members who self-identify as Female;

39 (3) the total number of current members who self-identify as an Underrepresented
40 Minority or LGBTQ+; and

41 (4) the total number of current members who self-identify as Female and as an
42 Underrepresented Minority or LGBTQ+.

43 (b) In addition, each appointing authority shall make reasonable efforts to identify and
44 report to the governor's office at least once per fiscal year:

45 (1) the total number of persons who applied or were nominated for appointment to
46 each public board or commission during the time period covered by the report;

47 (2) the total number of Females who applied or were nominated for appointment to
48 each public board or commission during the time period covered by the report;

49 (3) the total number of Underrepresented Minorities and LGBTQ+ individuals who
50 applied or were nominated for appointment to each public board or commission during the time
51 period covered by the report; and

52 (4) the total number of Females who are also Underrepresented Minorities and
53 LGBTQ+ who applied or were nominated for appointment to each public board or commission
54 during the time period covered by the report.

55 (c) The governor’s office shall publish at least once per fiscal year a report that
56 separately identifies for each public board and commission the data collected and reported by
57 such board and appointing authority pursuant to paragraphs (a) and (b) in this Section. If any
58 board or commission does not meet the diversity goals outlined in Section 1, the appointing
59 authority shall include an explanation for why the goals were not met and describe the efforts, if
60 any, by the appointing authority to increase the number of Diverse members on the board or
61 commission.

62 (d) Any demographic data disclosed or released pursuant to this section shall disclose
63 only aggregated statistical data and shall not identify an individual applicant, nominee or
64 appointed board member or commissioner.

Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight

Bill Summary

BILL NUMBER Senate, No. 2163

TITLE Resolve regarding revitalizing the right of free petition

SPONSORS

HEARING DATE Wednesday, October 29, 2025 at 10:30 AM - 01:10 PM, A-2

PRIOR HISTORY

2023-24 (S2022): Sent to study

SUMMARY

This resolution seeks to revitalize the Right of Free Petition by creating a Special Commission consisting of members from the House and Senate to consider how to present information to the public on how to file legislation and participate in the legislative process. The Commission must hold public hearings at the State House and across the Commonwealth to gather public feedback.

SENATE No. 2163

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Jason M. Lewis, (BY REQUEST)

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 regarding revitalizing the right of free petition.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Vincent Dixon

SENATE No. 2163

By Mr. Lewis (by request), a petition (accompanied by resolve, Senate, No. 2163) of Vincent Dixon, that provisions be made for an investigation and study by a commission (including members of the General Court) relative to the revitalization of the right of free petition. State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. 2022 OF 2023-2024.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

Resolve regarding revitalizing the right of free petition.

1 **Resolved**, 1.) A Resolution regarding informing the population of Massachusetts about
2 the use of the Right Of Free Petition; the use of Bills, Resolves, Resolutions, and Proposals for
3 Constitutional Amendments.

4 2.) It being the proper business of the persons of Massachusetts, to be able to intersect
5 with their government, therefore The Right Of Free Petition, should be revitalized, by a series of
6 steps considered by The Great And General Court, and its two legislative chambers.

7 3.) This legislation requests and describes creation of a Special Committee and/or
8 Commission of members of the House, and Senate, to consider how to publicize, educate, and
9 disseminate information to the general population of Massachusetts, regarding the availability,

10 and processes for filing proposed legislative actions under the Right Of Free Petition: Bills,
11 Resolves, Resolutions, and Proposals for Constitutional Amendments.

12 4.) The Special Committee and/or Commission shall hold, well-publicized hearings, at
13 both the State House, and in at least four other geographically disparate areas of The
14 Commonwealth, to collect public comment regarding actions to be taken.

15 5.) A suitable generally available publication shall be created, and disseminated by the
16 Secretary of The Commonwealth, to provide general information as to how this right can be
17 readily exercised. – It is the intent of this measure, that more individuals may bring forward,
18 ideas, thoughts, and useful mechanisms, for the benefit of government, and our society.

19 6.) This body shall be a membership appointed by the Speaker Of The House, President
20 Of The Senate, and shall have representation of all legally recognized, ballot status, political
21 parties, including Unenrolled (non-party, ‘Independents’) from each body. Membership shall be
22 appointed within three (3) months of passage.

23 7.) This body shall have a lifespan of eighteen (18) months from the appointment of its
24 members.

Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight

Bill Summary

BILL NUMBER Senate, No. 2164

TITLE An Act relative to improving boards and commissions

SPONSORS

HEARING DATE Wednesday, October 29, 2025 at 10:30 AM - 01:10 PM, A-2

PRIOR HISTORY

2023-24 (S2023): Sent to study

SUMMARY

The legislation seeks to improve the operation of boards and commissions by strengthening the operation of the Office of Boards and Commissions. The bill establishes the Registry of Available Volunteer Board and Commission to Rememberers to recruit qualified individuals to serve on public bodies. The Registry must be updated yearly to ensure the current members' interest in service is accurately detailed.

Additionally, both winners and losers of public office elections shall be included in the registry.

For boards and commissions involved in licensure or professional conduct decisions, nominal stipends must be granted to members who attend meetings quarterly.

SENATE No. 2164

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Jason M. Lewis, (BY REQUEST)

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 improving boards and commissions.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Vincent Dixon

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

60 Lake St Apt N Winchester MA 01890

SENATE No. 2164

By Mr. Lewis (by request), a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2164) of Vincent Dixon, for legislation relative to improving boards and commissions. State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. 2023 OF 2023-2024.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to improving boards and commissions.

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. The Massachusetts General Laws are hereby amended by inserting the
2 following new chapter: An Act to Improve the Functioning of Various Boards and Commissions.

3 LEGISLATION PURPOSES

4 1.) The Office of Boards and Commissions, within the Executive Office for
5 Administration and Finance, shares, and helps perform, the important tasks related to filling
6 appointments, in over 700 Boards and Commissions. While the performance, has improved,
7 there are certain additional abilities, that can be added, in order to improve the filling of
8 appointments, the renewal of appointments, and the more complete membership of especially

9 important bodies. This legislation is created, to add these powers, and opportunities, to The
10 Office of Boards and Commissions.

11 2.) Whereas, the various Boards, and Commissions, of Massachusetts, have been created
12 over time, to accomplish a variety of public tasks, and decisions, in a manner that allows
13 informed consideration, deliberation, and decision making.

14 3.) Whereas, a large and persistent problem has continued, of the nature that members,
15 and memberships of many of the said Boards, and Commissions, have failed of renewal,
16 appointment, and/or reappointment, often leaving boards absent of quorums, and/or ability to
17 make legally binding decisions.

18 4.) Therefore, this legislation sets the following requirements, in order to improve the
19 functioning of boards, and commissions, and the quality of legally-binding decisions:

20 A general Registry Of Available Volunteer Board and Commission Members, for
21 appointment, shall be created; as a mechanism to recruit individuals capable of service on such
22 bodies. This Registry will engage in regular and suitable publicity, and recruitment activities,
23 through all forms of media, printed, broadcast, electronic, and social media, seeking competent
24 professionals, talented career individuals, and general citizens, with both specific and general
25 skills. These publicity efforts should include, regular News Releases, and Public Service
26 Announcements (PSAs) for general distribution.

27 As individuals are identified, suitable personnel screenings, shall be conducted, to
28 establish eligibility for this Registry.

29 Once individuals are determined to be qualified for various bodies, they may be
30 identified, also, as particularly qualified, for particular bodies.

31 As this roster is compiled for the Registry, it should be updated on a yearly basis.

32 All winning, and losing, candidates for any elected public office in Massachusetts, shall
33 be contacted, and may be included in such a list(s) of potential appointees, since they, by being
34 candidates for public office, have indicated an interest in aspects of public service.

35 All members, of all existing Boards and Commissions, shall be annually queried by
36 postal mail, and other means, as to the continuing nature of their activity as a member, their
37 interest in remaining as a member, such thoughts as they may have in the continuation of their
38 service, and of the Board, or Commission, of which they are a member; and also ideas about
39 effective recruitment of members such as themselves, including the names of other capable
40 and/or talented individuals.

41 In the cases of those Boards, and Commissions, which intersect with, or relate to decision
42 making on the licensure, or the determination of conduct of professional paid activities,
43 employment, or activities; and meeting at least every three (3) months, a nominal stipend of three
44 (3) hours per meeting, of the equivalent value of the Minimum Wage, may be compensated to
45 members, if so authorized by the General Court.

Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight

Bill Summary

<u>BILL NUMBER</u>	Senate, No. 2190
<u>TITLE</u>	An Act establishing a special commission to study the feasibility of incorporating conductive concrete in future public works projects
<u>SPONSORS</u>	Senator O'Connor
<u>HEARING DATE</u>	Wednesday, October 29, 2025 at 10:30 AM - 01:10 PM, A-2
<u>SIMILAR MATTERS</u>	H3592 (Rep. Mary Keefe)

PRIOR HISTORY

2023-24 (S2190): Reported favorably; referred to House Ways and Means

CURRENT LAW

Chapter 7C: Capital Asset Management and Maintenance

SUMMARY

This legislation establishes a feasibility study on the integration of conductive concrete in all public works developments and projects.

The UMASS School of Engineering shall conduct the study to determine the cost, feasibility, effectiveness, and projected cost savings of using conductive concrete in future public works projects to construct roads and sidewalks.

The commission must submit its findings to the legislature.

SENATE No. 2190

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Patrick M. O'Connor

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 a special commission to study the feasibility of incorporating conductive concrete in future public works projects.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Patrick M. O'Connor

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

First Plymouth and Norfolk

SENATE No. 2190

By Mr. O'Connor, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2190) of Patrick M. O'Connor for legislation to establish a special commission to study the feasibility of incorporating conductive concrete in future public works projects. State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. 2038 OF 2023-2024.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act establishing a special commission to study the feasibility of incorporating conductive concrete in future public works projects.

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

1 Notwithstanding any special or general law there shall be a special commission to study
2 the feasibility of integrating the use of conductive concrete in all public works developments and
3 projects.

4 A school of engineering within the state university of Massachusetts, in cooperation with
5 the findings of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, shall conduct a study to determine the cost,
6 feasibility, effectiveness, and projected cost savings of using conductive concrete in future public
7 works projects to construct roads and sidewalks. For the purposes of this act, conductive concrete
8 shall mean a concrete compound that contains steel shavings and carbon particles to create
9 enough conductivity to melt ice and snow while remaining safe to the touch.

10 The special commission shall submit its recommendations, together with drafts of any
11 legislation, to the clerks of the House of Representatives and the Senate, and the chairs of the
12 joint committee on economic development and emerging technologies, the joint committee on
13 telecommunications, utilities and energy, and the joint committee on transportation not later than
14 December 1, 2026.

Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight

Bill Summary

<u>BILL NUMBER</u>	Senate, No. 2191
<u>TITLE</u>	An Act establishing a special commission to investigate and study the feasibility of establishing a municipal building financing authority
<u>SPONSORS</u>	Senator O'Connor; Representatives Vieira of Falmouth, Xiarhos of Barnstable, and Marsi of Charlton
<u>HEARING DATE</u>	Wednesday, October 29, 2025 at 10:30 AM - 01:10 PM, A-2

PRIOR HISTORY

2023-24 (S2191): Reported favorably; referred to House Ways and Means

CURRENT LAW

Chapter 23A: Department of Economic Development

SUMMARY

This legislation establishes a special commission to investigate and study the feasibility of establishing a municipal finance authority. The commission shall explore potential funding opportunities and financing strategies for building municipal buildings like town halls, public safety buildings, and senior centers.

Additionally, the commission is tasked with analyzing the potential power of the authority, including the ability to establish grant programs, offer technical advice, conduct surveys, and suggest legislation.

The commission must submit its findings to the legislature.

SENATE No. 2191

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Patrick M. O'Connor

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 a special commission to investigate and study the feasibility of establishing a municipal building financing authority.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Patrick M. O'Connor</i>	<i>First Plymouth and Norfolk</i>	
<i>David T. Vieira</i>	<i>3rd Barnstable</i>	<i>1/24/2025</i>
<i>Steven George Xiarhos</i>	<i>5th Barnstable</i>	<i>1/27/2025</i>
<i>John J. Marsi</i>	<i>6th Worcester</i>	<i>8/25/2025</i>

SENATE No. 2191

By Mr. O'Connor, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2191) of Patrick M. O'Connor, David T. Vieira and Steven George Xiarhos for legislation to establish a special commission to investigate and study the feasibility of establishing a municipal building financing authority. State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. 2037 OF 2023-2024.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act establishing a special commission to investigate and study the feasibility of establishing a municipal building financing authority.

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. There is hereby established a special commission to investigate and study
2 the feasibility of establishing a municipal building finance authority.

3 SECTION 2. The commission shall: (1) consider recommendations from state and federal
4 reports, relative to the establishment of a municipal building finance authority; (2) identify and
5 consider state and private funding sources with consideration for providing grants and loans to
6 cities and towns for the planning, design, and construction of municipal buildings; (3) assess
7 innovative financing approaches for assisting municipalities in the planning and construction of
8 municipal buildings including, but not limited to, councils-on-aging facilities, public safety
9 facilities, town halls, and other municipal buildings or facilities; and (4) determine specific

10 powers of a municipal building finance authority including but not limited to (a) establishing
11 grant programs, (b) providing architectural or other technical advice and assistance to
12 municipalities, general contractors, subcontractors, construction or project managers, designers
13 and others in the planning, maintenance and establishment of municipal facilities; (c) perform or
14 commission a needs survey to ascertain the capital construction, reconstruction, maintenance and
15 other capital needs for municipal facilities in the commonwealth, and (d) recommend to the
16 general court legislation as necessary to further the purposes of establishing a municipal building
17 finance authority.

18 SECTION 2. The municipal building finance commission shall be comprised of the
19 following 13 members: 2 members of the senate appointed by the senate president; 2 members
20 of the house of representatives appointed by the speaker of the house; 1 member of the senate
21 and 1 member of the house of representatives appointed by the minority leader of each; the state
22 treasurer or a designee, the secretary of administration and finance or a designee, the secretary of
23 public safety and security or a designee, the secretary of elder affairs or a designee; the secretary
24 of housing and economic development or a designee; the executive director of the school
25 building authority or a designee and a representative of the Massachusetts Municipal
26 Association.

27 The members of the commission shall be appointed not later than 90 days after the
28 effective date of this act and shall serve until the completion of the report.

29 SECTION 3. The commission shall report to the general court the results of its study
30 together with recommendations and drafts of legislation by filing the same with the clerks of the
31 senate and the house of representatives on or before December 31, 2026.

Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight

Bill Summary

<u>BILL NUMBER</u>	Senate, No. 2196
<u>TITLE</u>	An Act relative to the Massachusetts Poland Trade Commission
<u>SPONSORS</u>	Senator Oliveira
<u>HEARING DATE</u>	Wednesday, October 29, 2025 at 10:30 AM - 01:10 PM, A-2
<u>SIMILAR MATTERS</u>	H3376 (Rep. Michael Kushmerek)

CURRENT LAW

Chapter 23A: Department of Economic Development

SUMMARY

This legislation establishes a commission on Massachusetts-Poland Trade within the International Trade Office. The goal of the commission is to strengthen economic and academic ties between Massachusetts and Poland by promoting bilateral trade investment, infrastructure development, and policy collaboration. The commission must submit an annual report with findings to the legislature.

SENATE No. 2196

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Jacob R. Oliveira

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 Massachusetts Poland Trade Commission.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Jacob R. Oliveira

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Hampden, Hampshire and Worcester

SENATE No. 2196

By Mr. Oliveira, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2196) of Jacob R. Oliveira for legislation relative to the Massachusetts Poland Trade Commission. State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to the Massachusetts Poland 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 inserting after section 13U the
2 following section:-

3 Section 13V. (a) There shall be established a commission on Massachusetts-Poland Trade
4 within the international trade office which shall advance and promote the economic interests of,
5 and strengthen the relationship between, the Commonwealth and the Republic of Poland. The
6 commission shall study, research and advance analyses, and make recommendations to: (i)
7 advance the bilateral trade and investments between the Commonwealth and the Republic of
8 Poland; (ii) initiate joint action on policy issues of mutual interest to the Commonwealth and
9 Republic of Poland; (iii) promote business and academic exchanges between the Commonwealth
10 and the Republic of Poland; (iv) encourage mutual economic support between; (v) further
11 investments in the infrastructure of the Commonwealth and the Republic of Poland; (vi) aid
12 communities in the Commonwealth and the Republic of Poland through the creation of economic

13 and educational opportunities, and; (vii) address such other issues as the commission deems
14 necessary.

15 (b) The commission shall consist of the following 21 members: 6 past or current
16 members of the house of representatives, 5 of whom shall be appointed by the speaker of the
17 house and 1 of whom shall be appointed by the minority leader of the house, 6 past or current
18 members of the senate, 5 of whom shall be appointed by the senate president and 1 of whom
19 shall be appointed by the minority leader of the senate; 6 members appointed by the governor, 1
20 of whom shall be the Polish consul general to New England, or a designee, 1 of whom shall be
21 the secretary of the Commonwealth, or a designee, 1 of whom shall be the secretary of economic
22 development, or a designee, 3 of whom shall be from an institute of higher education, but shall
23 not be affiliated with the same institution; and 3 of whom shall be appointed from a list of no less
24 than 5 persons submitted to the Governor by the Polish consul general to New England, all of
25 whom shall be from a public organization promoting Polish American affairs, but shall not be
26 affiliated with the same organization. All commission members shall be persons with knowledge
27 of or current or past involvement in organizations that promote Polish American affairs or shall
28 have interest in the well-being of trade relations between the Commonwealth and Republic of
29 Poland.

30 The members of the commission shall receive no compensation for their services but
31 shall be reimbursed for any unusual and customary expenses incurred in the performance of their
32 duties. Members shall be considered special state employees for the purposes of chapter 268A.

33 The commission shall elect from among its members a chair, a vice chair, a treasurer, and
34 any other officers it deems necessary.

35 The commission shall hold meetings at the places it designates throughout the state

36 A majority of the members of the commission shall constitute a quorum for the

37 transaction of business of the commission.

38 (c) The commission shall annually report its findings together with recommendations for

39 legislation, if any, to the governor, speaker of the house, senate president, the secretary of

40 economic development no later than August 31st for the immediately preceding fiscal year. The

41 report shall be in writing and include recommendations as deemed appropriate by the

42 commission to effectuate its purpose, as provided by this section.

Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight

Bill Summary

<u>BILL NUMBER</u>	Senate, No. 2204
<u>TITLE</u>	An Act promoting equality and respect in the legislature
<u>SPONSORS</u>	Senator Rausch
<u>HEARING DATE</u>	Wednesday, October 29, 2025 at 10:30 AM - 01:10 PM, A-2

PRIOR HISTORY

2023-24 (S2061): Sent to study

SUMMARY

This legislation establishes the Commission on Workplace Harassment and Sexual Assault to respond to claims and investigate complaints of workplace harassment. The 13-person commission shall be a public entity not subject to the supervision of any executive office, department, or other political subdivision of the commonwealth.

The commission shall have the powers to develop operation plans and rules, manage contracts, seek grants from federal and state sources, enter into agreements with public or private entities, and determine compensation. Additionally, the commission may collaborate with other state agencies, adopt an official seal, engage in legal action, and establish financial accounts.

The general counsel appointed by the commission oversees investigations that must be completed within six months. They can summon documents and must submit a detailed report that includes findings and disciplinary recommendations.

The commission must develop workplace harassment training programs and conduct an annual survey of all legislative employees and interns to assess the impact of workplace harassment.

SENATE No. 2204

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Rebecca L. Rausch

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 promoting equality and respect in the legislature.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Rebecca L. Rausch

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Norfolk, Worcester and Middlesex

SENATE No. 2204

By Ms. Rausch, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2204) of Rebecca L. Rausch for legislation to promote equality and respect in the legislature. State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. 2061 OF 2023-2024.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act promoting equality and respect in the legislature.

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. The General Laws, as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, are hereby
2 amended by inserting after chapter 23M the following chapter:-

3 CHAPTER 23N. COMMISSION ON WORKPLACE HARASSMENT AND SEXUAL
4 ASSAULT IN THE LEGISLATURE.

5 Section 1. As used in this chapter, the following words shall have the following meanings
6 unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

7 “Claim”, a written statement submitted to the commission by a reporting individual
8 alleging workplace harassment.

9 “Commission”, the commission on workplace harassment and sexual assault in the
10 legislature.

11 “Complaint”, a written statement submitted to the commission by a complainant alleging
12 workplace harassment.

13 “Complainant”, any state house personnel who files a claim with the commission stating
14 that the person experienced, observed, or has reasonable reason to know of workplace
15 harassment by a state house personnel or another person the complainant reasonably believes
16 could affect the job security or career opportunities of the complainant.

17 “Investigative report”, a report compiled by the general counsel, duly appointed pursuant
18 to Section 4 of this chapter, at the end of an investigation.

19 “Identity-based harassment”, verbal or physical conduct designed to humiliate, threaten,
20 intimidate, coerce, demean, or disparage an individual targeted because of the individual’s race,
21 color, religion, national origin, sex, gender expression, gender identity, sexual orientation,
22 disability, age, genetic information, ancestry, or other aspect of a person’s identity, which
23 conduct negatively interferes with an individual’s work performance or creates an intimidating,
24 hostile, offensive, or otherwise untenable workplace environment.

25 “Reporting individual”, a person who has experienced or witnessed incidents of
26 workplace harassment and has reported those incidents to the commission.

27 “Respondent”, an individual accused of workplace harassment by a reporting individual
28 or complainant.

29 “Retaliatory action”, the discharge, suspension, demotion or other adverse employment
30 action taken against an individual, reporting individual, or complainant that provides information
31 to the commission.

32 “Sexual harassment”, unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or verbal
33 or physical conduct of a sexual nature when (a) submission to or rejection of such advances,
34 requests, or conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of employment or
35 as a basis for an employment decision, or (b) such advances, requests, or conduct have the
36 purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual’s work performance or creating
37 an intimidating, hostile, humiliating or sexually offensive work environment.

38 “Sexual assault”, any nonconsensual sexual act involving physical touching.

39 “State house personnel”, any person whose essential job functions are substantially
40 related to the operation of the general court. State house personnel shall include, but shall not be
41 limited to, members of the Senate and House of Representatives, employees of the legislature,
42 legislative interns, and employees of the executive branch whose principal place of business is
43 the state house.

44 “Workplace harassment”, an incident involving elements of identity-based harassment,
45 sexual harassment or sexual assault as defined in this chapter.

46 Section 2. (a) There shall be within the executive office of administration and finance, but
47 not under its control, a commission on workplace harassment and sexual assault in the
48 legislature. The commission shall respond to claims and investigate and report on complaints of
49 workplace harassment as provided in this chapter. The commission shall be an independent

50 public entity not subject to the supervision and control of any other executive office, department,
51 commission, board, bureau, agency or political subdivision of the commonwealth.

52 (b) The commission shall consist of 13 members:

53 (1) 1 of whom shall be appointed by the governor, provided however that the appointee
54 shall not be a current employee of the executive branch;

55 (2) 1 of whom shall be appointed by the senate president, provided however that the
56 appointee shall not be a current member of the Senate or the House of Representatives;

57 (3) 1 of whom shall be appointed by the senate minority leader, provided however that
58 the appointee shall not be a current member of the Senate or the House of Representatives;

59 (4) 1 of whom shall be appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives, provided
60 however that the appointee shall not be a current member of the Senate or the House of
61 Representatives;

62 (5) 1 of whom shall be appointed by the house minority leader, provided however that the
63 appointee shall not be a current member of the Senate or the House of Representatives;

64 (6) 1 of whom shall be appointed by the Women's Bar Association of Massachusetts,
65 who shall be a licensed attorney with demonstrated experience in the field of workplace
66 harassment;

67 (7) 1 of whom shall be appointed by the Massachusetts LGBTQ Bar Association, who
68 shall be a licensed attorney with demonstrated experience in the field of workplace harassment;

69 (8) 1 of whom shall be appointed by the Massachusetts Caucus of Women Legislators;

70 (9) 1 of whom shall be appointed by the Massachusetts Black and Latino Legislative
71 Caucus;

72 (10) 2 of whom shall be appointed by the attorney general, 1 of whom shall be a sexual
73 assault counsellor, as that term is defined in section 20J of chapter 233, and 1 of whom shall be a
74 licensed attorney with experience as a mediator or other presider over alternative dispute
75 resolution; and

76 (11) 2 of whom shall be appointed by the auditor, 1 of whom shall be a licensed social
77 worker with demonstrated expertise in sexual harassment outreach and 1 of whom shall be a
78 human resources professional with demonstrated expertise in the field of workplace harassment
79 training.

80 The commission shall annually elect 1 of its members to serve as chair and 1 of its
81 members to serve as vice-chair. Each member shall be appointed for a term of 3 years and shall
82 be eligible for reappointment; provided, however, that a person appointed to fill a vacancy shall
83 serve only for the unexpired term. A member shall not hold other employment in the government
84 of the commonwealth or any of its political subdivisions. Each member of the commission shall
85 be a resident of the commonwealth.

86 (c) Seven members of the commission shall constitute a quorum and the affirmative vote
87 of seven members of the commission shall be necessary and sufficient for any action taken by
88 the commission. Members shall serve without pay but shall be reimbursed for actual expenses
89 necessarily incurred in the performance of their duties. Meetings of the commission shall be
90 subject to sections 18 to 25, inclusive, of chapter 30A and records pertaining to the
91 administration of the commission shall be subject to section 42 of chapter 30 and section 10 of

92 chapter 66. All moneys of the commission shall be considered to be public funds for purposes of
93 chapter 12A.

94 The commission shall not be required to obtain the approval of any other officer or
95 employee of any executive agency in connection with the collection or analysis of any
96 information. The commission shall not be required, prior to publication, to obtain the approval of
97 any other officer or employee of any executive agency with respect to the substance of reports,
98 investigative or annual, that the general counsel has prepared under this chapter.

99 (d) The commission shall have all the powers necessary or convenient to carry out and
100 effectuate its purposes. The powers shall include, but shall not be limited to:

101 (i) developing a plan of operation for the commission that shall include, but shall not be
102 limited to, the implementation of procedures for operations of the commission and procedures
103 for communications with the general counsel;

104 (ii) making, amending and repealing rules and regulations for the management of the
105 commission's affairs;

106 (iii) making contracts and executing all instruments that are necessary or convenient for
107 the carrying on of the commission's business;

108 (iv) acquiring, owning, holding, disposing of or encumbering personal property and
109 leasing real property in the exercise of the commission's powers and the performance of the
110 commission's duties;

111 (v) seeking and receiving grant funding from the federal government, departments or
112 agencies of the commonwealth and private foundations;

113 (vi) entering into and executing instruments in connection with agreements or
114 transactions with any federal, state or municipal agency or other public institution or with any
115 private individual, partnership, firm, corporation, association or other entity that may be
116 necessary in the commission's judgment, and to fix the compensation of such an individual or
117 entity;

118 (vii) enter into interdepartmental agreements with other state agencies that the
119 commission considers necessary to implement this chapter;

120 (viii) adopt and alter an official seal;

121 (ix) sue and be sued in its own name, plead and be impleaded; and

122 (x) establish lines of credit and establish at least 1 cash and investment account to receive
123 appropriations from the commonwealth and for all other business activity granted by this
124 chapter.

125 Section 3. The commission shall: (i) ensure the objective and thorough investigation of
126 all workplace harassment complaints within its jurisdiction; (ii) ensure the transparency of
127 processes and reports related to investigations of workplace harassment within its jurisdiction;
128 (iii) monitor and record claims of workplace harassment reported to the commission by
129 frequency and claim type; (iv) provide workplace harassment resources to individuals upon
130 request; (v) establish models for workplace harassment policy guidelines and training programs
131 for the general court; and (vi) conduct an annual workplace harassment survey for general court
132 employees.

133 Section 4. (a) The commission shall appoint a general counsel by a majority vote. The
134 general counsel shall be lawfully admitted to practice as an attorney in the commonwealth and
135 shall supervise the administrative affairs and general management and operations of the
136 commission. The general counsel shall receive a salary commensurate with the duties of the
137 office. The general counsel may appoint other officers and employees of the commission
138 necessary to the functioning of the commission. Sections 9A, 45, 46, and 46C of chapter 30,
139 chapter 31 and chapter 150E shall not apply to the general counsel of the commission. Sections
140 45, 46 and 46C of chapter 30 shall not apply to any employee of the commission. The general
141 counsel may establish personnel regulations for the officers and employees of the commission.
142 The general counsel shall file an annual personnel report with the senate and house committees
143 on ways and means containing the job classifications, duties and salary of each officer and
144 employee of the commission together with personnel regulations applicable to the officers and
145 employees.

146 (b) The general counsel shall, with the approval of the commission:

147 (i) plan, direct, coordinate and execute administrative functions in conformity with the
148 policies and directives of the commission;

149 (ii) establish an intake procedure for the submission of claims by reporting individuals to
150 the commission pursuant to section 5, including any necessary forms;

151 (iii) conduct investigations authorized by this chapter, including supervising summons
152 and the collection of information relevant to authorized investigations; and

153 (iv) at the conclusion of each investigation and pursuant to the requirements of section 7,
154 submit an investigative report on the findings of the investigation to the appropriate parties.

155 Section 5. (a) The commission shall receive and review claims of workplace harassment
156 according to procedures established by the general counsel.

157 (b) A reporting individual shall submit a claim in the form of a written statement to the
158 commission including, but not limited to: (i) the name, position, and the department, if
159 applicable, of the reporting individual; (ii) the name, position and department, if applicable, of
160 the respondent; (iii) a description of the incident, including the date, location and presence of
161 witnesses; (iv) the effect of the incident on the ability of the reporting individual to perform the
162 reporting individual's job, or on other terms or conditions of the reporting individual's
163 employment; and (v) other information the reporting individual believes is relevant to the claim.
164 The general counsel or a member of the commission staff may assist the reporting individual in
165 completing the written statement. The general counsel may request additional information from
166 the reporting individual in the form of a written statement or an in-person interview.

167 (c) The commission shall notify a reporting individual orally and in writing of any
168 organization or government entity that has jurisdiction to address the specific incident of
169 workplace harassment reported by the individual including, but not limited to: (i) the attorney
170 general; (ii) a law enforcement official; (iii) the Massachusetts Commission Against
171 Discrimination; and (iv) the federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. A notification
172 under this subsection shall include an option for the claim to be sent to an organization or
173 government entity at the discretion and with the consent of the reporting individual. Claims
174 submitted to the commission shall be recorded and retained by the commission.

175 (d) The procedures and remedies available to a reporting individual under this chapter
176 shall not preempt or supersede any legal procedures or remedies otherwise available to an
177 individual under local, state or federal law.

178 Section 6. (a) The general counsel shall execute and supervise investigations under this
179 chapter.

180 (b) If the commission determines that a reporting individual is a complainant as defined
181 by this chapter, the general counsel shall open an investigation into the complaint reported by the
182 complainant and notify the complainant and respondent in writing that an investigation has been
183 opened.

184 (c) The commission shall issue rules and regulations to establish a process for a
185 respondent to appeal the determination that a reporting individual is a complainant under this
186 section. The process shall include notice and an opportunity for a hearing.

187 (d) The general counsel may request the production, on a voluntary basis, of testimony or
188 documents from an individual, government agency or non-governmental entity. The general
189 counsel may require by summons the production of all records, reports, audits, reviews, papers,
190 books, documents, recommendations, correspondence and any other data and material relevant to
191 a matter under investigation pursuant to this chapter. The summons shall be served in the same
192 manner as a summons for the production of documents in civil cases issued on behalf of the
193 commonwealth and the law relative to the summons shall apply to a summons issued pursuant to
194 this chapter. A justice of the superior court department of the trial court of the commonwealth
195 may, upon application by the general counsel, issue an order to compel the production of records,
196 reports, audits, reviews, papers, books, documents, recommendations, correspondence and any

197 other data and material relevant to any matter under investigation pursuant to this chapter. A
198 failure to obey such an order may be punished by the court as contempt.

199 (e) A summons issued pursuant to this section shall not be made public by the general
200 counsel or any officer or employee of the commission and any information provided pursuant to
201 this section shall not be made public until such time as it is necessary for the general counsel to
202 do so through the issuing of an investigative report. Disclosure of production, attendance or
203 testimony may be made to the members of the staff of the commission as is deemed necessary by
204 the general counsel.

205 (f) An investigation may be closed when the general counsel determines a sufficient
206 amount of information has been collected to find that it is more likely than not that workplace
207 harassment occurred or to determine that a finding could not be made. An investigation under
208 this section shall be completed in not more than 6 months; provided, however, that the
209 commission may, upon a request by the general counsel, approve an extension of not more than 6
210 months.

211 Section 7. (a) At the conclusion of an investigation, the general counsel shall compile and
212 submit a report on the findings of the investigation.

213 (b) The report shall include, but shall not be limited to: (i) the position and department, if
214 applicable, of the complainant; (ii) the name, position and department, if applicable, of the
215 respondent; (iii) the time and location of the incident being investigated; (iv) a detailed
216 description of the incident; (v) resources provided to the complainant by the commission or other
217 governmental or non-governmental entities; and (vi) a finding that it is more likely than not that
218 harassment occurred or a statement that a finding could not be made. If after an investigation a

219 majority of the commission determines that it is more likely than not that harassment occurred,
220 the commission shall include in the report a recommendation for disciplinary action, including
221 but not limited to: in the case of a legislator, reprimand, censure, temporary or permanent
222 removal from committee chairmanship or other position of authority, suspension with or without
223 pay, or expulsion; in the case of an officer or employee of the general court, reprimand,
224 suspension or removal. Said report shall not prevent the senate or house of representatives from
225 taking any other action as it shall deem advisable and appropriate.

226 (c) Prior to a report being released, the general counsel shall notify the complainant and
227 the respondent that the investigation has been closed and issue a copy of the investigative report
228 to the complainant and respondent for review. The commission shall issue rules and regulations
229 to establish a process for a complainant or respondent to appeal the release of an investigative
230 report before a report is released. The process shall include notice and an opportunity for a
231 hearing.

232 (d) The general counsel shall submit a copy of the investigative report to all interested
233 parties including, but not limited to: (i) the complainant; (ii) the respondent; (iii) each member of
234 the commission; and (iv) the respondent's employer, provided, however, that if the respondent is
235 a member of the legislature, the report will be sent to the committee on ethics in the chamber
236 where the respondent is a member. A copy of the report may be submitted to the attorney general
237 or the district attorney for the district in which the incident occurred with the complainant's
238 written consent.

239 Section 8. (a) Except as otherwise provided in this section, the proceedings and records of
240 the commission related to investigations shall be confidential and not subject to section 10 of

241 chapter 66. The commission shall establish procedures, applicable to members of the
242 commission, general counsel, and staff that ensure compliance with the confidentiality
243 requirements of this chapter.

244 (b) If the subject matter of an investigation becomes public through independent sources,
245 the general counsel may issue a statement to confirm the pendency of the investigation or to
246 clarify the procedural aspects of the investigation.

247 (c) Reports submitted to interested parties by the general counsel shall be confidential
248 and not subject to section 10 of chapter 66, including reports sent to individuals, members of the
249 commission and governmental and non-governmental entities. A party that receives a report
250 from the general counsel shall notify staff, if any, that the report is confidential and take steps to
251 ensure non-disclosure of the report.

252 (d) Nothing in this chapter shall preclude or limit the right of a complainant, respondent
253 or witness to share personal information under federal, state or local law.

254 Section 9. A person shall not discharge or cause to be discharged or otherwise discipline
255 or in any manner discriminate against or take any other retaliatory action against any employee,
256 client or other person for providing information to the commission, the general counsel or
257 commission staff, including filing a report or complaint with the commission or testifying in a
258 commission proceeding. A person who willfully violates this section shall be punished by a fine
259 of not more than \$1,000 or by imprisonment for not more than 1 year, or both. A person who
260 takes such a prohibited action against an employee, client or other person may be liable to that
261 employee, client or other person for treble damages, costs and attorney's fees.

262 Section 10. The commission shall annually conduct a workplace harassment survey of all
263 employees and interns of the general court. The survey shall be administered electronically and
264 the identity of the survey takers shall be anonymous. The survey shall include a definitions
265 section that shall include but shall not be limited to the definitions of identity-based harassment,
266 sexual harassment and sexual assault under this chapter. The survey shall include a demographic
267 section that shall include the age, sex, gender identity, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation,
268 religious affiliation, level of education and relationship status of the survey taker. The survey
269 shall include a questions section that shall include, but shall not be limited to the following
270 questions: (i) "Have you experienced or witnessed some form of workplace harassment or
271 assault-related behaviors in the past 12 months?"; (ii) "If you have experienced or witnessed
272 some form of workplace harassment or assault-related behaviors, what was the primary basis for
273 the specific behavior or set of experiences?"; (iii) "If you have experienced or witnessed some
274 form of workplace harassment or assault-related behaviors, when and where did the specific
275 behavior or set of experiences occur?"; (iv) "If you have experienced or witnessed some form of
276 workplace harassment or assault-related behaviors, how often and for how long did the specific
277 behavior or set of experiences persist?"; (v) "If you have experienced or witnessed some form of
278 workplace harassment or assault-related behaviors, who was involved in the specific behavior or
279 set of experiences?"; (vi) "If you have experienced or witnessed some form of workplace
280 harassment or assault-related behaviors, what was the job title of the person or persons involved
281 in the specific behavior or set of experiences?"; (vii) "If you have experienced or witnessed some
282 form of workplace harassment or assault-related behaviors, did your work role require you to
283 continue to interact with the person or persons involved?"; (viii) "If you have experienced or
284 witnessed some form of workplace harassment or assault-related behaviors, did you discuss the

285 specific behavior or set of experiences with anyone at work?"; (ix) "If you have experienced or
286 witnessed some form of workplace harassment or assault-related behaviors, did you make a
287 complaint or report in response to the specific behavior or set of experiences?"; (x) "If you have
288 made a complaint or report, what happened as a result of it?"; (xi) "If you have experienced or
289 witnessed some form of workplace harassment or assault-related behaviors and did not make a
290 complaint or report, what were the reasons for not doing so?"; (xii) "If you have experienced or
291 witnessed some form of workplace harassment or assault-related behaviors, what effect did the
292 specific behavior or set of experiences have on your interpersonal relationships, physical or
293 emotional well-being, job performance or willingness to remain a part of the legislature?"; (xiii)
294 "If you have experienced or witnessed some form of workplace harassment or assault-related
295 behaviors, what resources did you use to make a complaint or report or receive additional
296 information about workplace harassment, if any?"; (xiv) "If you experience or witness workplace
297 harassment or assault-related behaviors, will you make a complaint or report?"; and (xv) "If you
298 would not make a complaint or report after experiencing or witnessing workplace harassment or
299 assault behaviors, is it due to a fear of retaliatory action?".

300 Section 11. The commission shall annually compile a report that shall include, but shall
301 not be limited to: (i) the number of incidents of workplace harassment and assault reported to the
302 commission, classified and analyzed by the type of incident, the demographics of reporting
303 individuals and the percentage of reports that led to investigations; (ii) the number of
304 investigations opened by the general counsel, classified by respondent job title; (iii) the number
305 of investigative reports issued by the commission, classified by the type of incident, the
306 demographics of complainants and the demographics of respondents; (iv) the results of the
307 workplace harassment survey conducted pursuant to section 10 as raw data and synthesized to

308 identify and describe correlations and overarching trends; (vi) recommended changes to the
309 model workplace harassment policies established by the commission, if any; and (vii) any other
310 information that may assist the legislature in preventing and effectively responding to incidents
311 of workplace harassment. The commission shall file the annual report with the senate president,
312 the speaker of the house of representatives, the clerks of the senate and house of representatives
313 and the chairs of the joint committee on rules not later than September 15.

314 Section 12. The commission shall promulgate the rules and regulations and perform the
315 functions that are necessary for the administration, implementation and enforcement of this
316 chapter.

317 SECTION 2. Notwithstanding subsection (b) of section 2 of chapter 23N of the General
318 Laws, the initial appointments to the commission on workplace harassment and sexual assault in
319 the legislature made by the governor, senate president and senate minority leader shall serve for a
320 term of 3 years, the initial appointments made by the speaker of the house of representatives and
321 the house minority leader and 1 of the initial appointments made by the attorney general shall
322 serve for a term of 2 years and the initial appointments made by the auditor and 1 of the initial
323 appointments made by the attorney general shall serve for a term of 1 year.

324 SECTION 3. (a) The commission on workplace harassment and sexual assault in the
325 legislature established by chapter 23N shall, in consultation with the Massachusetts Commission
326 Against Discrimination, research and develop model workplace harassment policies for
327 consideration and use by the senate and house of representatives. In developing the model
328 policies, the commission may request and receive information and testimony from experts in
329 relevant fields including, but not limited to, workplace harassment, sexual assault, personnel

330 policies and human resources management. The model workplace harassment policies shall
331 include, at a minimum: (i) a statement of the illegality of workplace harassment; (ii) a definition
332 of identity-based harassment, sexual harassment and sexual assault; (iii) descriptions of conduct
333 constituting identity-based harassment, sexual harassment and sexual assault, including
334 examples; (iv) resources available to reporting individuals including, but not limited to, contact
335 information for the commission, the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination and the
336 federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission; and (v) protection against retaliatory
337 action. The commission shall submit the model workplace harassment policies, including
338 specific policy language, to the senate president, the speaker of the house of representatives, the
339 clerks of the senate and house of representatives, and the chairs of the joint committee on rules.
340 The senate and house of representatives may adopt the model policies submitted pursuant to this
341 section in whole or in part.

342 (b) The commission shall research and develop a model workplace harassment training
343 program for consideration and use by the senate and house of representatives. In developing the
344 model training program, the commission may contract with third party vendors and request and
345 receive information and testimony from experts in relevant fields such as identity-based
346 harassment, sexual harassment, sexual assault, personnel policies and human resources
347 management. The model training program shall include, at a minimum: (i) a definition of
348 “effective interactive training”; (ii) a definition of “legislative employee”; (iii) a definition of
349 “unlawful conduct”, which shall include applicable federal and state statutory and case law
350 references and principles; (iv) minimum trainer qualifications; (v) minimum training frequency
351 and duration requirements; (vi) procedures for training completion documentation, including
352 minimum record retention requirements and procedures for individual tracking; and (vii) training

353 content requirements, including, but not limited to, types of conduct that constitute workplace
354 harassment, remedies available to reporting individuals, strategies to prevent workplace
355 harassment, practical examples of workplace harassment and hypothetical situations,
356 confidentiality of the reporting process and resources for reporting individuals.

Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight

Bill Summary

<u>BILL NUMBER</u>	Senate, No. 2226
<u>TITLE</u>	An Act establishing an emergency assistance shelter system oversight commission to continually evaluate all expenditures related to the system
<u>SPONSORS</u>	Senator Tarr
<u>HEARING DATE</u>	Wednesday, October 29, 2025 at 10:30 AM - 01:10 PM, A-2

SUMMARY

This legislation establishes a commission to evaluate and report on the cost-effectiveness of the state's emergency assistance shelter system. The commission will report monthly on the expenditures of the shelter system, including goods and services provided to individuals.

SENATE No. 2226

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Bruce E. Tarr

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 an emergency assistance shelter system oversight commission to continually evaluate all expenditures related to the system.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Bruce E. Tarr

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

First Essex and Middlesex

SENATE No. 2226

By Mr. Tarr, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2226) of Bruce E. Tarr for legislation to establish an emergency assistance shelter system oversight commission to continually evaluate all expenditures related to the system. State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act establishing an emergency assistance shelter system oversight commission to continually evaluate all expenditures related to the system.

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

1 There shall be established an emergency assistance shelter system oversight commission
2 to evaluate and report on the cost-effectiveness of the operation of the commonwealth’s
3 emergency assistance shelter system. The commission shall conduct monthly evaluations of all
4 expenditures related to the emergency assistance shelter system, including, but not limited to,
5 any goods or services provided to individuals in the shelter system.

6 The commission shall consist of: the chairs of the joint committee on ways and means or
7 their designees, who shall serve as co-chairs; 1 member appointed by the speaker of the house of
8 representatives; 1 member appointed by the president of the senate; 1 member appointed by the
9 minority leader of the house of representatives; 1 member appointed by the minority leader of
10 the senate; the executive director of the office for refugees and immigrants or their designee; the
11 secretary of housing and livable communities or their designee; the secretary of health and

12 human services or their designee; the secretary of administration and finance or their designee;
13 and 1 member appointed by the office of the veteran advocate.

14 The commission shall submit its monthly report, along with any recommendations, to the
15 clerks of the house of representatives and the senate no later than the 15th of each month.”