

## **Massachusetts House of Representatives Bill Summary**

**Bill #:** H.493

**Title:** An Act establishing the Puerto Rico trade commission.

**Sponsor:** Rep. Orlando Ramos

**Committee:** Economic Development and Emerging Technologies

**Hearing Date:** September 25, 2025

**Reporting Deadline:** November 24, 2025 (Subject to extensions under House Rule 27)

**Prior History:** N/A-New File

**Current Law:** MGL Chapter 23A governs the organization of Executive Office of Economic Development.

**Summary:** The bill adds a new section, "Section 71," to Chapter 23A of the General Laws, establishing a Puerto Rico Trade Commission within the Executive Office of Economic Development.

Subsection (a) of this new section establishes the Massachusetts-Puerto Rico trade commission within the Executive Office of Economic Development to study and make recommendations on promoting trade, business, and investment between Massachusetts and Puerto Rico; advancing policy issues of mutual interest; encouraging cultural and economic exchanges; and addressing any other matters the Commission deems appropriate.

Subsection (b) of this new section relates to the make-up and organization of the commission. More specifically, it states that the commission shall consist of 15 members and that members shall include the Secretary of Economic Development or a designee, two members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, two members appointed by the Senate President, and ten members appointed by the Governor. This subsection also requires the Commission to elect one of its members as Chair of the commission.

Subsection (c) of this new chapter states that the members of the Commission shall not receive compensation for their services but shall be reimbursed for any reasonable and customary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

Subsection (d) requires the Commission to submit an annual report of its findings and recommendations by June 30 of each year. This report must be submitted to the Clerks of the House and Senate, the Joint Committee on Economic Development and Emerging Technologies, and the Secretary of Economic Development.