

**MEMORANDUM
OF THE SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH
IN RESPECT TO THE PETITION OF THOMAS W. MOAKLEY RELATIVE TO
TRIBAL GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATION ON THE MARTHA'S VINEYARD COMMISSION**

April 16, 2025

To: The Honorable Senate and
House of Representatives

On April 7, 2025 the Clerk of the House of Representatives transmitted the above-referenced petition to me with a request for a memorandum pursuant to the provisions of General Laws Chapter 3 § 7.

The Martha's Vineyard Commission (hereinafter referred to as the "Commission") was organized by Chapter 831 of the Acts of 1977 for the purpose of protecting the health, safety, and general welfare of island residents and visitors by preserving and conserving for the enjoyment of present and future generations the unique natural, historical, ecological, scientific, and cultural values of Martha's Vineyard which contribute to public enjoyment, inspiration and scientific study, by protecting these values from development and uses which would impair them, and by promoting the enhancement of sound local economies. The act established that the commission shall consist of 21 members, and provided the methods and procedures for these members appointments and or elections to the commission.

The docket before seeks to amend the appointment provisions, providing that one (1) member would be a representative of the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head Aquinnah, that would be appointed by the Indian tribal government.

Honorable Senate and
House of Representatives

April 16, 2025

Special legislation is necessary to create this corporation. This office has no opinion on the merits of the proposed docket. No fee is required to be paid the Commonwealth by a corporation of this type.

Respectfully submitted,

William Francis Galvin
Secretary of the Commonwealth

WFG/mso