

HOUSE No. 3463

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Gloria L. Fox

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 Eastern Regional Commission on the status of Women and girls.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Gloria L. Fox

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

7th Suffolk

HOUSE No. 3463

By Ms. Fox of Boston, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3463) of Gloria L. Fox for legislation to establish an eastern regional commission on the status of women and girls. Municipalities and Regional Government.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court
(2015-2016)**

An Act establishing an Eastern Regional Commission on the status of Women and girls.

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 shall be an Eastern Regional commission on the status of women which shall
2 consist of 9 persons to be appointed by the commission on the status of women established in
3 section 66 of chapter 3 of the General Laws. The Eastern Regional commission shall conduct an
4 ongoing study of all matters concerning women in Eastern Regional communities. The Eastern
5 Regional commission shall report its findings to the commission on the status of women
6 annually, not later than June 2, and shall recommend solutions to the problems facing women in
7 Eastern Regional communities. The commission on the status of women shall make
8 appointments to the Eastern Regional commission from a pool of applicants who reside in
9 Eastern Regional communities. For the purpose of this act, "Eastern Regional communities"
10 shall mean municipalities located within Norfolk and Suffolk county.

11 (b) Members shall serve for 3-year terms and shall continue in office until their
12 successors are appointed. Members shall not be reappointed for more than 2 consecutive terms;

13 provided, however, that former members may reapply to serve on the commission after 1 year
14 has passed since their last term. Of the initial members appointed to the Eastern Regional
15 commission on the status of women, 3 members shall be appointed for a term of 1 year, 3
16 members shall be appointed for a term of 2 years and 3 members shall be appointed for a term of
17 3 years.

18 (c) Vacancies in the membership of the Eastern Regional commission on the status of
19 women shall be filled by the commission on the status of women for the balance of the unexpired
20 term.

21 (d) In making appointments to the Eastern Regional commission on the status of women,
22 the commission on the status of women shall consult with women's organizations. Nominations
23 shall be solicited between August 1 and September 16 annually through an open application that
24 is widely distributed throughout the Eastern Regional communities. Members of the commission
25 shall be diverse and represent different Eastern Regional communities.

26 (e) Members shall serve on the Eastern Regional commission on the status of women as
27 volunteers and shall not be compensated.

28 (f) The Eastern Regional commission on the status of women shall elect from among its
29 members a chair, a vice chair, a treasurer and any other officers as it deems necessary.

30 (g) The Eastern Regional commission on the status of women shall meet at least 4 times
31 a year, at the members' discretion. Members of the commission on the status of women may
32 attend the meetings of the Eastern Regional commission on the status of women.

33 (h) The Eastern Regional commission on the status of women may accept and solicit
34 funds, including any gifts, donations, grants or bequests and federal funds for any of the purposes
35 of this act. The funds shall be deposited in a separate account to be expended at the discretion of
36 the commission.

37 (i) The Eastern Regional commission on the status of women may: (i) use voluntary and
38 uncompensated services of private individuals, agencies and organizations as may, from time to
39 time, be offered or required; (ii) recommend policies and make recommendations to state and
40 local agencies and officers to effectuate the purposes of the commission; (iii) enact by-laws for
41 its own governance; (iv) hold regular public meetings, conduct fact-finding hearings and hold
42 other public forums as it deems necessary; and (v) take other actions as it deems necessary to
43 effectuate its purposes.