

# **HOUSE . . . . . No. 4767**

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, December 15, 2016.

The committee on Ways and Means to whom was referred the Bill establishing an Eastern Regional Commission on the status of Women and girls (House, No. 3463, changed), reports recommending that the same ought to pass with an amendment substituting therefor the accompanying bill (House, No. 4767).

For the committee,

BRIAN S. DEMPSEY.

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court  
(2015-2016)**  
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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           SECTION 1. (a) There shall be an Eastern Regional commission on the status of women  
2           which shall consist of 9 persons to be appointed by the commission on the status of women  
3           established in section 66 of chapter 3 of the General Laws. The Eastern Regional commission  
4           shall conduct an ongoing study of all matters concerning women in Eastern Regional  
5           communities. The Eastern Regional commission shall report its findings to the commission on  
6           the status of women annually, not later than June 2, and shall recommend solutions to the  
7           problems facing women in Eastern Regional communities. The commission on the status of  
8           women shall make appointments to the Eastern Regional commission from a pool of applicants  
9           who reside in Eastern Regional communities. For the purpose of this act, “Eastern Regional  
10          communities” shall include: the towns of Avon, Brookline, Canton, Cohasset, Dedham,  
11          Foxborough, Holbrook, Hull, Milton, Plainville, Sharon, Stoughton, and Westwood, and the  
12          cities of Boston, Braintree, Chelsea, Quincy, Randolph, Revere, Weymouth, and Winthrop.

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

15 provided, however, that former members may reapply to serve on the commission after 1 year  
16 has passed since their last term. Of the initial members appointed to the Eastern Regional  
17 commission on the status of women, 3 members shall be appointed for a term of 1 year, 3  
18 members shall be appointed for a term of 2 years, and 3 members shall be appointed for a term of  
19 3 years.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

46 SECTION 2. (a) There shall be an Upper Middlesex commission on the status of  
47 women which shall consist of 9 persons to be appointed by the commission on the status of  
48 women established in section 66 of chapter 3 of the General Laws. The Upper Middlesex  
49 commission shall conduct an ongoing study of all matters concerning women in Upper  
50 Middlesex communities. The Upper Middlesex commission shall report its findings to the  
51 commission on the status of women annually, not later than June 2, and shall recommend  
52 solutions to the problems facing women in Upper Middlesex communities. The commission on  
53 the status of women shall make appointments to the Upper Middlesex commission from a pool  
54 of applicants who reside in Upper Middlesex communities. For the purpose of this act, "Upper  
55 Middlesex communities" shall include: the towns of Acton, Arlington, Ashby, Ayer, Bedford,  
56 Belmont, Billerica, Boxborough, Burlington, Carlisle, Chelmsford, Concord, Dracut, Dunstable,  
57 Groton, Lexington, Lincoln, Littleton, North Reading, Pepperell, Reading, Shirley, Stoneham,

58 Tewksbury, Townsend, Tyngsborough, Wakefield, Westford, Wilmington, Winchester, and the  
59 cities of Cambridge, Everett, Lowell, Malden, Medford, Melrose, Newton, Somerville, Waltham,  
60 Watertown, and Woburn.

61 (b) Members shall serve for 3-year terms and shall continue in office until their  
62 successors are appointed. Members shall not be reappointed for more than 2 consecutive terms;  
63 provided, however, that former members may reapply to serve on the commission after 1 year  
64 has passed since their last term. Of the initial members appointed to the Upper Middlesex  
65 commission on the status of women, 3 members shall be appointed for a term of 1 year, 3  
66 members shall be appointed for a term of 2 years, and 3 members shall be appointed for a term of  
67 3 years.

68 (c) Vacancies in the membership of the Upper Middlesex commission on the status of  
69 women shall be filled by the commission on the status of women for the balance of the unexpired  
70 term.

71 (d) In making appointments to the Upper Middlesex commission on the status of women,  
72 the commission on the status of women shall consult with women's organizations. Nominations  
73 shall be solicited between August 1 and September 16 annually through an open application that  
74 is widely distributed throughout the Upper Middlesex communities. Members of the  
75 commission shall be diverse and represent different Upper Middlesex communities.

76 (e) Members shall serve on the Upper Middlesex commission on the status of women as  
77 volunteers and shall not be compensated.

78 (f) The Upper Middlesex commission on the status of women shall elect from among its  
79 members a chair, a vice chair, a treasurer, and any other officers as it deems necessary.

80 (g) The Upper Middlesex commission on the status of women shall meet at least 4 times  
81 a year, at the members' discretion. Members of the commission on the status of women may  
82 attend the meetings of the Eastern Regional commission on the status of women.

83 (h) The Upper Middlesex commission on the status of women may accept and solicit  
84 funds, including any gifts, donations, grants or bequests and federal funds for any of the purposes  
85 of this act. The funds shall be deposited in a separate account to be expended at the discretion of  
86 the commission.

87 (i) The Upper Middlesex commission on the status of women may: (i) use voluntary and  
88 uncompensated services of private individuals, agencies and organizations as may, from time to  
89 time, be offered or required; (ii) recommend policies and make recommendations to state and  
90 local agencies and officers to effectuate the purposes of the commission; (iii) enact by-laws for  
91 its own governance; (iv) hold regular public meetings, conduct fact-finding hearings and hold  
92 other public forums as it deems necessary; and (v) take other actions as it deems necessary to  
93 effectuate its purposes.

94 SECTION 3. (a) There shall be a Plymouth County commission on the status of women  
95 which shall consist of 9 persons to be appointed by the commission on the status of women  
96 established in section 66 of chapter 3 of the General Laws. The Plymouth County commission  
97 shall conduct an ongoing study of all matters concerning women in Plymouth County  
98 communities. The Plymouth County commission shall report its findings to the commission on  
99 the status of women annually, not later than June 2, and shall recommend solutions to the  
100 problems facing women in Plymouth County communities. The commission on the status of  
101 women shall make appointments to the Plymouth County commission from a pool of applicants

102 who reside in Plymouth County communities. For the purpose of this act, “Plymouth County  
103 communities” shall include all municipalities located in Plymouth County.

104 (b) Members shall serve for 3-year terms and shall continue in office until their  
105 successors are appointed. Members shall not be reappointed for more than 2 consecutive terms;  
106 provided, however, that former members may reapply to serve on the commission after 1 year  
107 has passed since their last term. Of the initial members appointed to the Plymouth County  
108 commission on the status of women, 3 members shall be appointed for a term of 1 year, 3  
109 members shall be appointed for a term of 2 years, and 3 members shall be appointed for a term of  
110 3 years.

111 (c) Vacancies in the membership of the Plymouth County commission on the status of  
112 women shall be filled by the commission on the status of women for the balance of the unexpired  
113 term.

114 (d) In making appointments to the Plymouth County commission on the status of  
115 women, the commission on the status of women shall consult with women's organizations.  
116 Nominations shall be solicited between August 1 and September 16 annually through an open  
117 application that is widely distributed throughout the Plymouth County communities. Members  
118 of the commission shall be diverse and represent different Plymouth County communities.

119 (e) Members shall serve on the Plymouth County commission on the status of women as  
120 volunteers and shall not be compensated.

121 (f) The Plymouth County commission on the status of women shall elect from among its  
122 members a chair, a vice chair, a treasurer, and any other officers as it deems necessary.

123 (g) The Plymouth County commission on the status of women shall meet at least 4 times  
124 a year, at the members' discretion. Members of the commission on the status of women may  
125 attend the meetings of the Plymouth County commission on the status of women.

126 (h) The Plymouth County commission on the status of women may accept and solicit  
127 funds, including any gifts, donations, grants or bequests and federal funds for any of the purposes  
128 of this act. The funds shall be deposited in a separate account to be expended at the discretion of  
129 the commission.

130 (i) The Plymouth County commission on the status of women may: (i) use voluntary and  
131 uncompensated services of private individuals, agencies and organizations as may, from time to  
132 time, be offered or required; (ii) recommend policies and make recommendations to state and  
133 local agencies and officers to effectuate the purposes of the commission; (iii) enact by-laws for  
134 its own governance; (iv) hold regular public meetings, conduct fact-finding hearings and hold  
135 other public forums as it deems necessary; and (v) take other actions as it deems necessary to  
136 effectuate its purposes.

137 SECTION 4. Section 2 shall go into effect January 1, 2018.

138 SECTION 5. Section 3 shall go into effect January 1, 2018.