

HOUSE No. 00829

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Peter J. Koutoujian

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 passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act promoting responsible investment and the prevention of genocide..

PETITION OF:

NAME:

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Peter J. Koutoujian

10th Middlesex

Jason M. Lewis

31st Middlesex

HOUSE No. 00829

By Mr. Koutoujian of Waltham, petition (accompanied by [legType], House, No. 00829) of Peter J. Koutoujian and Jason M. Lewis relative to promoting international trade with nations taking action to abolish genocide

Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE
 HOUSE
 , NO. 3005 OF 2009-2010.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Eleven

An Act promoting responsible investment and the prevention of genocide..

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 23A of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2004 Official Edition, is

2 hereby amended by adding the following section: -

3 Section 23B. The office of international trade and investment executive director shall make an

4 annual assessment of international trading partners in nations with a history of genocide or of

5 suspected genocide to determine whether they have acted affirmatively to acknowledge and

6 redress prior acts of genocide committed within their borders. The executive director shall

7 contact the international trade agencies in nations that have taken such affirmative action to

8 inform them of the commonwealth's recognition of their efforts and their designation as a
9 priority trading partner.

10 SECTION 2. Section 23A of Chapter 23A of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2006
11 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting at the end thereof, the following language:
12 "The General Court shall not consent to any trade agreement with a nation within whose
13 boundaries genocide is occurring, as declared by the general court, the United States
14 government, and/or the United Nations."

15 SECTION 3. Paragraph (g) of subsection (2) of section 23 of chapter 32 of the General Laws, as
16 appearing in the 2004 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding the following clause:

17 (iv) subsequent to the date of such determination no new investment of funds shall be made in
18 any bank or financial institution which directly or through any subsidiary has outstanding loans
19 to any individual corporation engaged in the manufacture, distribution or sale of firearms,
20 munitions, including rubber or plastic bullets, tear gas, armored vehicles, or military aircraft for
21 use or development in any activity in any country where genocide is occurring, as declared by
22 the general court, the United States, or the United Nations, and no new investment of funds shall
23 be made in the stocks, securities or other obligations of any company so engaged.

24 SECTION 4. Said subsection (2) of said section 23 of said chapter 32, as so appearing, is hereby
25 amended by striking out, in line 224, the words "(i), (ii) and (iii)" and inserting in place thereof
26 the following words: "(i) to (iv), inclusive."

27 SECTION 5. Said section 23 of said chapter 32, as so appearing, is hereby amended by striking
28 out, in line 377, the word "and".

29 SECTION 6. Said section 23 of said chapter 32, as so appearing, is hereby amended by adding
30 after the word "engaged", in lines 383 and 384, the following words: " ; and provided, further,
31 that no funds are to be invested in any bank or financial institution which directly or through any
32 subsidiary has outstanding loans to any individual corporation engaged in the manufacture,
33 distribution or sale of firearms, munitions, including rubber or plastic bullets, tear gas, armored
34 vehicles, or military aircraft for use or deployment in any activity in any country where genocide
35 is occurring, as declared by the general court, the United States, or the United Nations, and no
36 assets shall be invested in the stocks, securities or other obligations of any such company so
37 engaged. The PRIM board shall grant special consideration to investments, subject to the
38 requirements of this section, in countries which have acted affirmatively to acknowledge and
39 redress prior acts of genocide committed within their borders.