

SENATE No. 1920

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Thirteen

An Act establishing the MetroWest 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 a MetroWest commission on the status of women and girls which shall
2 consist of 9 persons to be appointed by the commission on the status of women established in
3 section 3 of chapter 66 of the General Laws. The MetroWest commission shall conduct an
4 ongoing study of all matters concerning women and girls in MetroWest communities. The
5 MetroWest 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
7 and girls in MetroWest communities. The commission on the status of women shall make
8 appointments to the MetroWest commission from a pool of applicants who reside in MetroWest
9 communities. For the purpose of this act, MetroWest communities shall include: the towns of
10 Ashland, Bellingham, Dover, Framingham, Franklin, Holliston, Hopkinton, Hudson, Maynard,
11 Medfield, Medway, Millis, Natick, Needham, Norfolk, Northborough, Norwood, Sherborn,
12 Southborough, Stow, Sudbury, Walpole, Wayland, Wellesley, Westborough, Weston and
13 Wrentham, and the city of Marlborough.

14 (b) Members shall serve for 3-year terms and shall continue in office until their
15 successors are appointed. Members shall not be reappointed for more than 2 consecutive terms;
16 provided, however, that former members may reapply to serve on the commission after a year
17 has passed since their last term. Of the initial members appointed to the MetroWest commission
18 on the status of women and girls, 3 members shall be appointed for a term of 1 year, 3 members
19 shall be appointed for a term of 2 years and 3 members shall be appointed for a term of 3 years.

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

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

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

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

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

35 (h) The MetroWest commission on the status of women and girls 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 MetroWest commission on the status of women and girls may: (i) use voluntary
40 and uncompensated services of private individuals, agencies and organizations as may, from time
41 to 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; (3) enact by-laws for its
43 own governance; (iv) hold regular public meetings, conduct fact-finding hearings and hold other
44 public forums as it may deem necessary; and (v) take other actions as it deems necessary to
45 effectuate its purposes.