

By Mr. Murphy of Boston, petition of Paul Murphy for the establishment of a board of consumer protection within the Department of Public Safety. Commerce and Labor.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Seventy.

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A BOARD OF CONSUMER PROTECTION WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 Chapter 22 of the General Laws is hereby amended by
2 adding after section 14 the following section:—

3 *Section 15.* To facilitate and implement the provisions of
4 chapter ninety-three A relative to regulation of business
5 practices for consumers protection, there shall be in the
6 department, but not under the control of the commissioner, a
7 board to be known as the board of consumer protection which
8 shall consist of the commissioner, or a member of the de-
9 partment designated by him in a writing filed with the
10 state secretary, the commissioner of administration, or his
11 designee, and five members appointed by the governor. The
12 members initially appointed by the governor shall serve for
13 one, two, three, four and five years, respectively, according to
14 the terms of their respective appointments. Upon the expira-
15 tion of the term of a member appointed by the governor, his
16 successor shall be appointed for a term of five years. Any
17 vacancy in the office of an appointive member shall be filled
18 for the unexpired term. The chairman of the board shall be
19 designated from time to time by the governor.

20 Each appointive member of said board shall be paid thirty-
21 one dollars and twenty-five cents for each day while in the
22 actual performance of his duties as such, but not exceeding
23 twelve hundred and fifty dollars in any fiscal year, and shall
24 also receive from the commonwealth all expenses necessarily

25 incurred by him in connection with his official duties. Such
26 clerical, technical and other assistants as may be required by
27 the board shall be assigned to it by the commissioner.

28 The board shall investigate and study unfair methods of
29 competition and unfair or deceptive acts or practices in the
30 conduct of any trade or commerce; to make available to the
31 public the results of its investigation and research; to receive
32 and process complaints of such practices; to report violations
33 to the attorney general for action by him.