

By Mr. Fitzgerald of Boston, petition of John E. McDonough and other members of the General Court for the establishment of a special commission (including members of the General Court) relative to economic competitiveness in the Commonwealth. Commerce and Labor.

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety-One.

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A SPECIAL STUDY COMMISSION ON ECONOMIC COMPETITIVENESS.

*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. The General Court finds: (a) that the health and  
2 welfare of the people of the commonwealth are enhanced by the  
3 growth of employment, productivity and living standards brought  
4 upon by the expansion and increased competitiveness of private  
5 enterprises within the commonwealth;

6 (b) That the City of Boston has commissioned and published  
7 a report investigating the region's economic competitiveness and  
8 future prospects written by economist Dr. James Howell, entitled  
9 *The Howell Report — The Boston and Regional Economy Into*  
10 *the 1990s: The Prospects for Economic Recovery*;

11 (c) That *The Howell Report* has determined that much of the  
12 commonwealth's economic growth in the next decade will be in  
13 newly-emerging and technology-oriented industries with special  
14 regulatory, financial, infrastructural and labor skills needs that  
15 may not be met by current government policies and programs;

16 (d) That many of the regulatory programs and policies of the  
17 Commonwealth, while serving important and necessary policy  
18 objectives, are not adequately coordinated, so that their  
19 cumulative impact can discourage business expansion and new  
20 business formation;

21 (e) That tax programs designed to promote business creation  
22 and expansion and job creation also are not adequately

23 coordinated with a view to maximizing their intended effect while  
24 minimizing the negative impact on state revenues;

25 (f) That the infrastructure needs of new knowledge-based and  
26 high technology companies include advanced communication and  
27 information networks as well as traditional infrastructure  
28 components; and

29 (g) That a highly skilled workforce is essential to the economic  
30 competitiveness of the urban centers of the Commonwealth and  
31 that present vocational and technical training is not fully meeting  
32 the needs of knowledge-based and high technology companies.

1 SECTION 2. There is hereby established a special commission  
2 to investigate, study and prepare recommendations to the  
3 governor and the legislature on means of maintaining and  
4 enhancing the economic competitiveness of urban centers,  
5 addressing the special needs of emerging growth industries,  
6 promoting full and equal access to economic opportunity for all  
7 persons in the community, and forging a more effective  
8 relationship between government and business to accomplish  
9 these objectives. The commission shall make comparisons of  
10 existing policies and partnerships in the commonwealth with those  
11 in other states.

1 SECTION 3. The commission shall be appointed by the Gov-  
2 ernor not later than one hundred eighty (180) days after the  
3 enactment of this Act and shall be comprised of 17 members,  
4 consisting of one member of the house of representatives; one  
5 member of the senate; the secretaries of the executive offices of  
6 economic affairs, environmental affairs, transportation and  
7 construction, and community development or their designees; the  
8 mayor of Boston or his designee; the mayor, city manager, or  
9 member of the board of selectmen, as the case may be, or the  
10 designee of said official, of two other cities or towns with major  
11 concentrations of businesses, industries or institutions in the  
12 industry clusters identified below; the president of the  
13 Massachusetts Municipal Association or his designee; one  
14 member of the Board of Regents or his designee; and six members  
15 appointed by the governor, including one representative each  
16 from the industry clusters of health services, biomedical research

17 and related manufacturing, higher education, computer software  
18 and hardware, electronics and defense, and financial services.

1 SECTION 4. Issues to be addressed by the commission shall  
2 include, but need not be limited to, the following:

3 (i) How the Commonwealth's regulatory and permitting  
4 processes can be reformed to enhance the protection of the public  
5 health, safety, and welfare and of the environment, while  
6 minimizing, to the extent consistent with those objectives, the  
7 burden imposed on private business, industry, and the  
8 institutional sector?

9 (ii) How the state tax code can be reformed to provide  
10 incentives for investments and activities that will increase the  
11 economic competitiveness of Massachusetts' businesses,  
12 industries, and institutions and enhance the ability of those  
13 businesses and industries to create jobs, increase productivity, and  
14 improve living standards?

15 (iii) What are the infrastructure requirements of the businesses,  
16 industries, and institutions of the urban areas of the Common-  
17 wealth? The Commission shall include, in its study and  
18 recommendations, evaluations of high speed rail links from  
19 Boston to New York and Washington, satellite airport facilities  
20 supplementing Logan International Airport, improved mass  
21 transportation (including, in Boston, the proposed circumferen-  
22 tial transit link) and communications and information  
23 infrastructure including fiber optic networks.

24 (iv) How can the educational, vocational, and applied technical  
25 resources of the Commonwealth's urban areas be improved so as  
26 to better provide the specific skills needed by workers in the  
27 businesses, industries, and institutions of those areas?

28 (v) What policies and measures can be undertaken to better  
29 promote full and equal access to economic opportunity for all  
30 persons in the community, including individuals and groups who  
31 for reasons of race, religion, nationality, gender, age, or handicap  
32 have been excluded from full participation in the economy?

33 (vi) How cities and towns can be given greater "room to  
34 innovate" in promoting economic competitiveness by providing  
35 better security and predictability in state funding, removing  
36 unnecessary bureaucratic restrictions on state categorical grants,

37 and enhancing the economic and community development tools  
38 available to cities and towns.

39 (vii) What is the proper role for the public sector and how can  
40 the public and private sectors most effectively cooperate in  
41 accomplishing the policy goals identified in the first sentence of  
42 Section 2.

1 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon passage. The  
2 commission shall file a report, including recommendations for  
3 legislation, with the governor and the clerk of the house of  
4 representatives no later than June 31, 1992.