

SENATE No. 252

To accompany the petition of Andrew J. Peters, mayor of the city of Boston, that a Commission on Foreign and Domestic Commerce be established. Administration and Commissions.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Nineteen.

AN ACT

To establish a Commission on Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

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 commission on foreign and
2 domestic commerce is hereby established to con-
3 sist of seven members, four of whom shall be ap-
4 pointed by the governor, with the advice and
5 consent of the council, and three of whom shall
6 be appointed by the mayor of Boston. The term
7 of office of the commission and of its members
8 shall be for two years from the date of its first
9 meeting. Any vacancy in said commission shall
10 be filled for the unexpired term by the governor,
11 with the advice and consent of the council, or

12 by the mayor of said city, according as the va-
13 cancy occurs among the members appointed by
14 the governor or by the mayor of said city. Said
15 commission shall be supplied with suitable quar-
16 ters in the state house. The members of the
17 commission shall serve without pay. The com-
18 mission shall choose its own chairman and shall
19 have authority to employ a secretary and such
20 clerical and expert assistants as it may deem
21 desirable.

1 SECTION 2. It shall be the duty of the com-
2 mission to take such measures as it may deem
3 best adapted to develop and increase foreign and
4 domestic commerce between this commonwealth
5 and foreign countries or other states, and to co-
6 operate with any similar public bodies established
7 in any other New England states, or with officials
8 of such states, in any movement to develop and
9 increase the foreign and domestic commerce of
10 the New England states; to endeavor to secure
11 the better organization and co-ordination of all
12 public and private associations or agencies inter-
13 ested in the increase of foreign and domestic
14 commerce, including chambers of commerce,
15 boards of trade, labor organizations and financial
16 institutions or interests; to endeavor to secure
17 the support and co-operation of cities and towns
18 in a movement to increase the foreign and domes-
19 tic commerce of the commonwealth and to
20 remove any obstacles standing in the way of the
21 development thereof, and with the approval of

22 the commission any city or town may appropri-
23 ate money to be expended by the commission
24 for any purpose coming within its general powers
25 or duties, and the commission may also accept
26 and expend any donation of money for any such
27 purpose; to arouse among merchants, manufac-
28 turers, wage earners and citizens generally a
29 greater interest in foreign and domestic com-
30 merce and appreciation of its possibilities and
31 benefits, and for that purpose the commission
32 may compile, publish and circulate any informa-
33 tion which it deems useful; to stimulate such
34 greater use and improvement of harbors, water
35 ways and rivers, natural or artificial, whether
36 within or without the commonwealth, as may be
37 adapted to increase and develop foreign or do-
38 mestic commerce moving out of or into the com-
39 monwealth; to endeavor to secure an increase in
40 steamship lines and vessels sailing to or from the
41 port of Boston or other ports of the common-
42 wealth; to investigate the effect of existing rates
43 for the transportation of freight and of so-called
44 differential rates upon the foreign and domestic
45 commerce of the commonwealth, and to endeavor
46 to secure such changes in such rates or differen-
47 tials as may tend to increase such commerce; to
48 negotiate with the proper authorities of the fed-
49 eral government in regard to the future disposi-
50 tion and use, under lease or otherwise, of the
51 quartermaster's base recently erected at the port
52 of Boston, when the same is no longer required
53 by the federal government, and to endeavor to

