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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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EDWARD J. KING  
GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT  
STATE HOUSE • BOSTON 02133

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives:

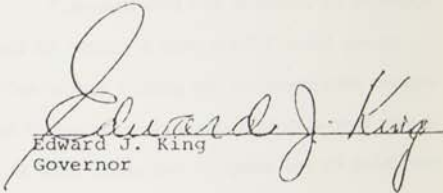
Today I am submitting to your Honorable Bodies the accompanying legislation entitled "An Act to Make Certain Corrective Changes in the Law Establishing the Department of Commerce and Development."

As you know, I have made a pledge to the people of Massachusetts to bring vigorous management to the public sector and to organize the structure of government in ways that will make it fully responsive to such management. The bill I am submitting to you today is one small step in that direction.

Enactment of this bill will end a decade of confusion regarding the proper responsibilities of our Department of Commerce and Development. This Department was established a quarter century ago when, in 1953, the General Court abolished the Massachusetts Development and Industrial Commission and the State Planning Board and transferred their duties to the newly-created Department of Commerce and Development. Fifteen years later, in 1968, the General Court established the Department of Community Affairs and transferred to it the urban renewal, relocation and planning units of the Department of Commerce and Development. The following year, the Cabinet system was created and the Department of Commerce and Development was placed within the Executive Office of Communities and Development. However, the activities of the Department of Commerce and Development were, even at that time, much closer in nature to the responsibilities of the Executive Office of Manpower Affairs than to those of the Executive Office of Communities and Development. Consequently, one of my predecessors, Governor Francis Sargent, issued Executive Order No. 96 in 1973 to officially transfer the Department of Commerce and Development to the Executive Office of Manpower Affairs.

Although this transfer by Executive Order was fully authorized by the General Court in the Cabinet Act of 1969, the relevant statutes concerning the organizational placement of the Department of Commerce and Development have never been amended to reflect the transfer. Nevertheless, the Department of Commerce and Development has functioned as a line agency of the Executive Office of Manpower Affairs for three consecutive administrations now. The accompanying legislation makes the corrective changes necessary to reflect this reality and thereby ends a long-standing and confusing situation which hampers our economic improvement efforts.

Given the economic challenges which confront the Commonwealth, I believe it is critical that we bring the maximum possible degree of effective organization to our efforts to work with the private sector. The legislation I am filing with you today is a step in that direction, and I hope you will give it your prompt and favorable attention.



Edward J. King  
Governor

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

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AN ACT TO MAKE CERTAIN CORRECTIVE CHANGES IN THE LAW ESTABLISHING THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND DEVELOPMENT.

*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. Section 8 of chapter 6A of the General Laws, as  
2 most recently amended by section 7 of chapter 1168 of the Acts of  
3 1973, is hereby amended by striking out the first sentence and  
4 inserting in place thereof the following sentence: — There shall be  
5 within the executive office of communities and development the  
6 following state agencies: the department of community affairs and  
7 all other state agencies within said department; the mobile home  
8 commission; and the American and Canadian French cultural  
9 exchange commission.

1 SECTION 2. Section 17 of chapter 6A of the General Laws, as  
2 appearing in section 3 of chapter 704 of the Acts of 1969, is hereby  
3 amended by adding after the word “affairs” in line 2 thereof the  
4 words: — the department of commerce and development and all  
5 other agencies within said department, including the urban job  
6 incentive bureau;.

1 SECTION 3. Section 1 of chapter 23A of the General Laws, as  
2 most recently amended by section 101 of chapter 872 of the Acts of  
3 1977, is hereby amended by striking out the first sentence and  
4 inserting in place thereof the following sentence: — There shall be,  
5 within the executive office of manpower affairs, a department of  
6 commerce and development, in this chapter called the department,  
7 which shall be under the supervision and control of a commissioner  
8 of commerce and development, in this chapter called the  
9 commissioner.

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