

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 3571

By Mr. DeVito of Everett, petition of Michael J. DeVito for legislation to establish the office of state ombudsman in the Department of the State Secretary. State Administration.

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

### AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE OFFICE OF STATE OMBUDSMAN.

*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 9 of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the  
2 following section:—

3 *Section 30.* There shall be in the department of state secretary,  
4 but not under his supervision or control, an office of state  
5 ombudsman. Such ombudsman shall be appointed for a term of  
6 six years by an advisory commission consisting of the state  
7 secretary, the speaker of the house of representatives and the  
8 president of the senate, of their designees. Such ombudsman may  
9 be removed only for cause by a two-thirds vote of each branch of  
10 the house sitting separately. Such ombudsman shall be an  
11 advocate for the citizens of the commonwealth, and shall be  
12 charged with answering the inquiries and complaints of said  
13 citizens and communicate only said problems and complaints to  
14 the proper agency or agencies of the commonwealth. Such  
15 ombudsman shall employ whatever staff and persons are so  
16 authorized by the general court.

the Act in force on the 1st day of July, 1907, in relation to the duties of the Secretary of the Interior.

**The Commission of Investigation**

In the year 1907, the Secretary of the Interior

was authorized to investigate the

Department of the Interior, and to report thereon to the President of the United States.

Chapter 1 of the Organic Act, which was approved August 7, 1892, and is entitled "An Act to provide for the organization of the Department of the Interior," contains the following provisions:

1. Section 10. There shall be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, a Commission of Investigation, consisting of three members, to be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, to investigate the Department of the Interior, and to report thereon to the President of the United States.
2. The Commission shall be organized as soon as possible after its appointment, and shall hold its first meeting on or before the 1st day of October next.
3. The Commission shall have the right to call upon any officer or employee of the Department of the Interior, and to examine any books, papers, or documents in the possession of any such officer or employee, and to take any other steps which may be necessary to carry out its duties.
4. The Commission shall have the right to hold public hearings, and to receive evidence thereon.
5. The Commission shall have the right to employ such clerical and other personnel as may be necessary, and to fix their compensation.
6. The Commission shall have the right to make such investigations as may be necessary to carry out its duties.
7. The Commission shall have the right to make such reports as may be necessary to carry out its duties.
8. The Commission shall have the right to make such recommendations as may be necessary to carry out its duties.
9. The Commission shall have the right to make such suggestions as may be necessary to carry out its duties.
10. The Commission shall have the right to make such proposals as may be necessary to carry out its duties.