

**SENATE . . . . . No. 1533**

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***The Commonwealth of Massachusetts***

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SENATE, May 9, 1991.

The committee on Human Services and Elderly Affairs, to whom was referred the petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 546) of Bill Owens, Raymond A. Jordan, Jr., Shirley Owens-Hicks, Gloria L. Fox, Alvin E. Thompson and Nelson Merced for legislation to establish the gang prevention commission, reports the accompanying bill (Senate, No. 1533).

For the committee,

BILL OWENS.

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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

## AN ACT TO PREVENT YOUTH AND GANG VIOLENCE.

*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. Chapter 6 of the General Laws is hereby  
2 amended by adding after section 204, inserted by section 2 of  
3 chapter 607 of the acts of 1989, the following three sections: —

4 Section 205. There is hereby established the Massachusetts  
5 Youth Violence and Gang Prevention Commission, hereinafter  
6 referred to as the commission. The commission shall be composed  
7 of fifteen members, to be appointed by the governor, including  
8 the following: the commissioner of youth services, the commis-  
9 sioner of public health, the commissioner of social services, the  
10 commissioner of education, the secretary of public safety, two  
11 members of the house of representatives, and one member of the  
12 senate, and seven persons, two of whom shall be graduates of  
13 youth violence programs, who have demonstrated their  
14 knowledge of and interest in youth and gang violence prevention,  
15 or their designees.

16 Each appointed member of the board shall serve for a term of  
17 three years, provided that of the initial appointees, three of the  
18 initial appointees shall serve for a term of three years, two shall  
19 serve for two years, and two shall serve for one year. Any member  
20 shall be eligible for reappointment.

21 There shall be an executive committee of the commission,  
22 consisting of the commissioner of youth services and four addi-  
23 tional members elected annually by the commission. The execu-  
24 tive committee shall, at the commencement of its session elect the  
25 various officers of the committee.

26 The commissioner of youth services shall serve as chairman of  
27 the whole commission. In addition to the executive committee,  
28 the commission may elect other officials and committees as it  
29 deems appropriate.

30 The commission shall have the power to receive and expend  
31 monies from the Violence Prevention Fund established in section  
32 thirty-five K of chapter ten, without further appropriation, for the  
33 expenses of the commission and the costs of programs funded by  
34 the commission; provided that no more than one hundred and  
35 fifty thousand dollars shall be expended in any fiscal year for the  
36 expenses of the commission; and provided, further, that any  
37 programs which the commission funds must be within the purview  
38 of sections two hundred and six and two hundred and seven.

39 Section 206. The commission shall have, but shall not be  
40 limited to, the following powers and duties: to contract with public  
41 or private non-profit organizations, agencies, schools, or qualified  
42 individuals, or to issue grants to cities, towns, or their political  
43 subdivisions, for the purpose of establishing community and  
44 school-based programs to teach and promote alternatives to  
45 violence, to provide incentives for youths to avoid youth gangs  
46 and stay in school and, to create opportunities for high risk youth  
47 to build positive self-esteem, non-violent communication skills  
48 and job skills; to facilitate the exchange of information between  
49 groups concerned with youth and gang violence; to consult with  
50 state and federal departments, agencies, commissions and boards  
51 to determine the need, probable effectiveness, and fiscal soundness  
52 of proposed educational and service programs for the prevention  
53 of youth violence and youth gang formation; to annually evaluate  
54 the violence and gang prevention programs under contract, or  
55 receiving grant funding under this section and to evaluate the  
56 success in attaining program goals; reduction in youth violence  
57 or gang membership and gang violence in a geographic service  
58 area; development of techniques for the early identification of at-  
59 risk youths; and the compilation of empirical data and generating  
60 statistics on youth violence and youth gangs; and to establish, by  
61 a majority vote of its membership, procedures, guidelines, rules  
62 and regulations to govern the operation of the commission;  
63 including a requirement to annually report to the governor and  
64 the general court the results of programs funded by the  
65 commission, and recommendations for additional state action.

66 Section 207. The commission shall establish and maintain the  
67 commission Job Bank; to develop a network of information on  
68 jobs and job training programs available in private industry,

69 municipalities, school districts and regional and community-  
70 based organizations; to determine the degree and extent of unem-  
71 ployment among at-risk youth; to make recommendations on the  
72 development of job training programs in geographic regions or  
73 economic sectors of the commonwealth. The commission shall  
74 work cooperatively with the department of manpower develop-  
75 ment and the division of employment security in meeting the  
76 requirements of this section.

1 SECTION 2. Chapter 10 of the General Laws, is hereby  
2 amended by inserting after section 35J, inserted by section 2 of  
3 chapter 121 of the acts of 1990, the following section: —

4 Section 35K. There shall be established and set up on the books  
5 of the commonwealth a separate fund to be known as the  
6 Massachusetts Violence Prevention Fund. Said fund shall consist  
7 of all revenues received by the commonwealth under the pro-  
8 visions of section six H of chapter sixty-two, from public and  
9 private sources as state appropriations, gifts, grants, and  
10 donations, and from the federal government as reimbursements,  
11 grants-in-aid or other receipts, to further the purposes of said  
12 fund. All revenues credited to said fund under this section shall  
13 remain in said fund, not subject to further appropriation, for  
14 application to the purposes of the fund.

15 The state treasurer shall be the treasurer of the fund and he shall  
16 deposit monies in the fund in accordance with the provisions of  
17 sections thirty-four and thirty-four A of chapter twenty-nine in  
18 such manner as will secure the highest interest rate available  
19 consistent with safety of the fund and with the requirement that  
20 all amounts on deposit be available for the immediate withdrawal  
21 at any time.

22 Said fund shall be administered by the Massachusetts Youth  
23 Violence and Gang Prevention Commission established in section  
24 two hundred and five of chapter six, and expenditures from the  
25 fund shall be made only for the purpose stated in sections two  
26 hundred and five through two hundred and seven of said chapter  
27 six.

1 SECTION 3. Chapter 62 of the General Laws is hereby  
2 amended by inserting after section 6G, inserted by section 27 of  
3 said chapter 121, the following section: —

4 Section 6H. Every individual who files a separate return and  
5 every husband and wife filing a return jointly may voluntarily  
6 contribute all or part of any refund to which they are entitled,  
7 or may voluntarily add an amount onto any amount due, to be  
8 credited to the Massachusetts Violence Prevention fund  
9 established pursuant to section thirty-five K of chapter ten.

10 A contribution made under this section may be with respect to  
11 any taxable year at the time of filing a return of the tax established  
12 by this chapter for such taxable year; provided, however, that the  
13 commissioner shall prescribe the manner in which such  
14 contribution shall be made on the face of the return required by  
15 section five of chapter sixty-two C; and, provided further, that  
16 the commissioner shall assure that taxpayers filing any such forms  
17 are made clearly aware of their ability to make the contributions  
18 provided for by this section.

19 The commissioner shall annually report the total amount  
20 designated under this section to the state treasurer, who shall  
21 credit such amount to said Massachusetts Violence Prevention  
22 Fund.





