

By Mr. Kocot of Northampton, petition of Peter V. Kocot for an investigation by a special commission (including members of the General Court) relative to the establishment of a Pioneer Valley Polish heritage institute at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. Education, Arts and Humanities.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Three.

RESOLVE ESTABLISHING A SPECIAL COMMISSION TO INVESTIGATE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PIONEER VALLEY POLISH HERITAGE INSTITUTE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AT AMHERST.

- 1     *Whereas*, the Pioneer Valley is the home to more people of  
2 Polish heritage than any other area of Massachusetts, and  
3     *Whereas*, the University of Massachusetts at Amherst is an out-  
4 standing public research institution, and  
5     *Whereas*, the documentation, preservation and research of this  
6 heritage and the contributions of the Polish people to the socio-  
7 economic vitality of this region and the Commonwealth is an  
8 important public policy goal, therefore  
9     There is hereby established a special commission to investigate  
10 the creation of a Pioneer Valley Polish Heritage Institute at the  
11 University of Massachusetts at Amherst. The purpose of said  
12 institute shall be to research, preserve and serve as a public repos-  
13 itory for all information related to the contributions people of  
14 Polish heritage have made and continue to make to the Pioneer  
15 Valley and Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Said institute will  
16 integrate university and private resources related to Polish lan-  
17 guage, history, culture, genealogy and the immigrant experience.  
18 Said institute will serve as a public clearinghouse for these  
19 archives and will serve as an educational resource for the public.  
20     Said special commission shall be comprised of three members  
21 of the House of Representatives, appointed by the Speaker, of  
22 which at least one shall be of Polish heritage; two members of the  
23 Senate, appointed by the Senate President; three members

24 appointed by the Governor, in consultation with the legislative  
25 delegation representing the Pioneer Valley, all of which shall be  
26 officers in Polish heritage or Polish genealogical organizations  
27 located in Hampshire or Franklin counties and one member to be  
28 appointed by the President of the University of Massachusetts at  
29 Amherst.

30 Said special commission may receive funding through state  
31 appropriation for the purposes of this act, provided that said uni-  
32 versity, at the discretion of the President may allocate meeting  
33 room space for the purposes of said special commission, and pro-  
34 vided further, that the special commission shall file its report,  
35 including a fiscal note, with the Clerks of the House and Senate,  
36 the Chairmen of the House and Senate committees on ways and  
37 means, and the President of the University of Massachusetts at  
38 Amherst no later than October 1, 2004.