

HOUSE No. 3091

By Mr. King of Boston, petition of Melvin H. King for an investigation by a special commission (including members of the General Court) relative to the institutional consumption of foods and sea foods produced in the Commonwealth. State Administration.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Eighty.

RESOLVE PROVIDING FOR AN INVESTIGATION AND STUDY BY A SPECIAL COMMISSION RELATIVE TO THE INSTITUTIONAL CONSUMPTION OF MASSACHUSETTS PRODUCED FOODS AND SEA FOODS.

1 *Resolved*, That a special commission to consist of one Senator and
2 two members of the House of Representatives, the Secretary of
3 Manpower Affairs who shall be Chairman, the Secretary of Human
4 services or his designee, the Secretary of Education or his designee,
5 the Secretary of Administration and Finance or his designee,
6 the Commissioner of Food and Agriculture; and seven persons who
7 shall be appointed by the Governor: one each of whom shall
8 represent dairy, poultry, vegetable, fruit and seafood producers, a
9 school meal official and a person with knowledge in the field of
10 consumer interests; and the Dean of the college of Food and Natural
11 Resources at the University of Massachusetts, or his designee; is
12 hereby established for the purpose of making an investigation and
13 study relative to the institutional consumption of Massachusetts-
14 produced foods and seafoods.

15 The Commission may establish subcommittees or task forces as
16 it deems necessary, members of which may include persons who are
17 not members of the full commission, for the purpose of investigation
18 and recommendation included in the mandates of this Resolve.

19 The Commission shall determine the maximum percentage of
20 Massachusetts produced foods and seafoods, which is possible for
21 an institution to purchase within present state law and regulation,
22 and to determine what broad economic benefits may be impaired
23 under present restrictions. The commission shall study the possibilities
24 of having state institutions including colleges and universities,

25 hospitals, correctional facilities and cafeterias, give preference in the
26 awarding of food contracts towards augmenting the purchase and
27 consumption of Massachusetts-produced foods including
28 seafoods, including produce from smaller-sales farms in various
29 community groups.

30 The commission shall study the possibilities of having state
31 institutions give preference in the awarding of food contracts to
32 farming cooperatives who produce food on the grounds of such
33 institutions, including cooperatives formed by residents of those
34 institutions and of the local area; as may achieve the complementary
35 benefits of developing greater localized self-sufficiency while pro-
36 viding new employment and utilizing otherwise idle lands.

37 The commission shall study the legalities of having the public
38 schools give preference in the awarding of food contracts towards
39 augmenting the purchase and consumption of Massachusetts-
40 produced foods including seafoods, particularly with school break-
41 fast and lunch programs.

42 The commission shall explore and provide models as necessary of
43 alternative contracting, bidding and other arrangements as would
44 implement such policies raised in the aforementioned mandates.
45 Before any models of alternate contracting or bidding may be
46 undertaken, the commission shall receive a judicial opinion on the
47 question of preferential bidding statutes.

48 The commission shall also examine agencies' compliance with
49 Chapter 434 of the Acts of 1976 with respect to food purchasing.

50 Said commission shall take into consideration in the course of its
51 study, such broad consideration as: possible new jobs and expanded
52 work hours, new tax revenues, beneficial effects upon primary farm
53 industries and other industries, community revitalization and
54 stability, costs and savings to consumers and nutritional and future
55 food-security opportunities as may accrue to respective communi-
56 ties and institutions overall, in the preferable awarding of food con-
57 tracts to Massachusetts farmers and cooperatives.

58 Said commission shall report to the General Court the results of
59 its investigation and study, together with its recommendations if
60 any, by filing the same with the Clerk of the House of Representa-
61 tives no later than the first Wednesday of December, 1981.