

SENATE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Richard T. Moore

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act Establishing the Commission on Government Accountability, Economy, and Efficiency .

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Richard T. Moore

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Worcester and Norfolk

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

An Act Establishing the Commission on Government Accountability, Economy, and Efficiency .

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. Establishment.

2 There is hereby established a special commission to investigate and study methods of improving the
3 accountability, economy and efficiency of the government of the Commonwealth and the operation of its
4 agencies, departments, instrumentalities, and political subdivisions, hereinafter referred to as “the
5 commission”.

6 SECTION 2. Purpose.

7 The purpose of the commission shall be to make recommendations to the Governor and the General
8 Court to promote economy, efficiency, and improved service in the transaction of the public business in
9 the various departments, agencies, instrumentalities and political subdivisions in the executive, legislative
10 and judicial branches of state and local government, and in making the operation of all state departments,
11 agencies, and instrumentalities, and local government and all expenditures of public funds, more directly
12 responsive to the needs of the Commonwealth and its political subdivisions, by any or all of the following
13 means:

14 (a) By adopting methods and procedures for reducing expenditures to the lowest amount
15 consistent with the efficient performance of essential services, activities and functions.

16 (b) By eliminating duplication and overlapping services, activities, and functions, and time-
17 consuming or wasteful practices.

18 (c) By consolidating services, activities, and functions of a similar nature.

19 (d) By abolishing services, activities, and functions not necessary to the efficient conduct of state
20 or local government.

21 (e) By the elimination of unnecessary departments and agencies, the creation of necessary new
22 departments and agencies, the reorganization of existing departments and agencies, and the
23 transfer of functions and responsibilities among departments and agencies.

24 (f) By defining or redefining duties and responsibilities of state or local officers.

25 (g) By revising present provisions for continuing or permanent appropriations of state funds or
26 bond authorizations, for whatever purpose, by eliminating any such existing provisions and by
27 adopting new provisions.

28 (h) By establishing means for performance measurement and methods of reporting such
29 measurement.

30 (i) Reorganizing all aspects of career public service including, but not limited to, methods of
31 recruitment and retention of public employees; training and re-training of public employees; job
32 classification, salaries and benefits of public employees; discipline and termination of public
33 employees, clarifying the state responsibilities and functions that are best served by regular public
34 employees and those best served by contract employees; and encouraging and facilitating
35 opportunities for private sector and non-profit sector employees to work in state or local
36 government for limited periods of time.

37 (j) By analyzing and evaluating all state and local contracts with private vendors for the purpose
38 of confirming that all contracted approaches to the delivery of goods and services are
39 accountable, economical, and efficient.

40 (k) To review state requirements for contracting for goods and services and for the retention of
41 professional services to determine the most effective means of determining the most qualified
42 vendor, including but not limited to, a review of the method by which state and local agencies,
43 state authorities, boards and commissions retain legal counsel, accounting, architectural and
44 engineering services.

45 SECTION 3. Membership.

46 The commission shall be comprised of the following members, each of whom shall serve at the pleasure
47 of the appointing authority:

48 (a) Seven members appointed by the Governor. Not more than four of such members shall be
49 registered voters in the same political party, and none shall hold public office in the executive

50 branch of the state government. Two of the seven shall have expertise in the management of
51 municipal government and one shall have expertise in managing a major not for profit agency.
52 Appointments shall include, but not be limited to, Massachusetts residents in the fields of
53 business and government management, accounting, labor relations, finance, human relations or
54 academic fields including, but not limited to, deans of schools of business or public
55 administration.

56 (b) Three members of the Massachusetts Senate who shall be the Senate Chair of Ways and
57 Means, the Chair of the Senate Committee on Post Audit and Oversight, and one member
58 designated by the Senate Minority Leader.

59 (c) Three members of the Massachusetts House of Representatives who shall be the House Chair
60 of Ways and Means, the Chair of the House Committee on Post Audit and Oversight, and one
61 member designated by the House Minority Leader.

62 (d) The Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House, who shall jointly
63 designate the chair or co-chairs of the Special Commission, shall each serve on the Task Force,
64 ex- officio.

65 (e) The Auditor of the Commonwealth and the Inspector General of the Commonwealth, ex-
66 officio.

67 SECTION 4. Meetings and Reports.

68 The Commission shall meet not less than quarterly and shall have the authority, subject to the approval of
69 the Secretary of Administration and Finance, to request staff support and research from state agencies to
70 carry out its responsibilities. The Commission may seek assistance from other organizations or
71 individuals on a pro bono basis. The Commission shall file annual reports with the Clerk of the Senate
72 and the Clerk of the House of Representatives and shall make a final report not later than June 30, 2012
73 unless revived and continued for a longer period of time by the General Court. The Commission may
74 make interim reports as appropriate in order to address the serious fiscal problems facing the
75 Commonwealth in the next few years.

76 In particular, the Commission shall examine the feasibility of developing one or more pilot projects for
77 the development and use of the Baldrige National Quality Program criteria by selected agencies to
78 improve their capabilities and results, as well as to increase their sustainability. The objective of each
79 said Baldrige Pilot Project is to help the participating agency to learn about and implement a framework
80 of robust systems and processes that will enable them to withstand harsh budget conditions and continue
81 to offer essential public services in a cost-effective manner. A pilot project shall demonstrate the business

82 case for improved results in service delivery using the Baldrige Criteria as set forth by the National
83 Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), including alignment of agency goals with key systems
84 and processes such as strategic planning, training of managers and staff in the principles of the criteria,
85 attention to stakeholder satisfaction, complaint management and resolution, process management,
86 succession planning, learning and development, and evaluation of programs.