

HOUSE No. 3410

By Mr. Kennedy of Brockton, petition of Thomas P. Kennedy relative to the membership of the Indian Affairs Commission. Tourism, Arts and Cultural Development.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Seven.

AN ACT TO IMPROVE INDIAN REPRESENTATION WITHIN THE COMMISSION ON INDIAN AFFAIRS.

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 6A, Section 8A of the General Laws is hereby amended
2 in its entirety to read as follows:—

3 Section 8A. There shall be in the executive office of communities
4 and development, a commission on Indian Affairs consisting of
5 eleven members who shall be appointed by the governor. All of the
6 members shall be of American Indian descent, and shall equitably
7 represent all the major tribal groups of the American Indian popula-
8 tion located within the Commonwealth. Each member shall serve for
9 a term of three years.

10 Equitable representation on the commission shall be assured for
11 all residents of the Commonwealth which are of American Indian
12 descent. To assure equitable representation, no one American Indian
13 tribe, group, sub-group, or organization shall be granted more than
14 one appointment or position on the commission at anytime.

15 The Commonwealth recognizes the following American Indian
16 major tribal groups as being located within the Commonwealth as on
17 record with the United States Interior Department-Bureau of Indian
18 Affairs (BIA):—

19 Mashpee Wampanoag (BIA #15); Nipmuck Nation — Has-
20 sanamisco Band (BIA #69a); Nipmuck Nation — Chaubunagunga-
21 maud Band (BIA #69b); Wampanoag Tribal Council of Gay Head
22 (BIA #76); Cowasuck Band — Pennacook/ Abenaki People (BIA
23 #151); and Pocasset Wampanoag Indian Tribe (BIA #153).

24 Said commission shall meet at least four times annually, but may
25 meet as often as it deems necessary for the proper conduct of its
26 affairs, and may elect from its membership a chairman and such
27 other officers as required. The chairman and each officer shall serve
28 for a term of one year.

29 The commission shall investigate problems common to Indian
30 residents of the Commonwealth and to all residents of Indian
31 descent. It shall assist tribal councils, Indian organizations and indi-
32 viduals in their dealing with agencies of state and local government,
33 assist with social services, education, employment opportunities,
34 health, housing problems, civil rights, legal aid, treaties, taking of a
35 census of Indian residents, and any other rights or services con-
36 cerning Indian residents of the Commonwealth.

37 The commission may make recommendations to the secretary of
38 administration and finance concerning programs and policies that
39 will best serve the interest of the Indian residents of the common-
40 wealth and shall make an annual report of its activities to the said
41 secretary and file a copy thereof with the clerks of the senate and
42 house of representatives on or before the last Wednesday in January
43 of each year.

44 Said commission shall provide for the burial expenses, up to three
45 hundred dollars, for the remains of any person whose previously
46 unknown grave has been disturbed, forcing its relocation, and whose
47 identity has been determined by the state archaeologist to be of an
48 American Indian.