

HOUSE No. 3419

By Mr. Turkington of Falmouth, petition of Eric Turkington and others for legislation to establish accurate assessment and measurement tools to determine the status, viability, strengths and weaknesses of the arts, sciences and humanities. Tourism, Arts and Cultural Development.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PETITION OF:

Eric Turkington
Denis E. Guyer
Peter V. Kocot
Sarah K. Peake

Todd M. Smola
Christine E. Canavan
Kay Khan
Mary E. Grant

In the Year Two Thousand and Seven.

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE MASSACHUSETTS CULTURAL ASSESSMENT AND ANNUAL REPORT.

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. Because the arts, sciences, and humanities con-
2 tribute to both the local and state economy; because the Common-
3 wealth of Massachusetts provides support for the arts, sciences and
4 humanities through the Massachusetts Cultural Council and the
5 Massachusetts Cultural Facilities Fund; and because the arts, sci-
6 ences, and humanities in their many forms provide economic, educa-
7 tional and social benefits to our communities; the Commonwealth of
8 Massachusetts acting through the Massachusetts Cultural Council
9 hereby commissions the creation of accurate assessment and mea-
10 surement tools to determine the status, viability, strengths and weak-
11 nesses of the arts, sciences and humanities in the Commonwealth.
12 These assessment and measurement tools shall consider as many of
13 the benefits as possible including economic impact; educational
14 value including but not limited to schoolchildren, underserved popu-
15 lations, low-income people, and the elderly; and community benefits
16 that can be identified and measured. As part of the assessment, the
17 first year of the project will establish baseline standards to compare

18 future growth or lack of growth In addition to any new research, the
19 Massachusetts Cultural Council will collect and correlate any
20 existing research deemed relevant and cost effective to compiling
21 this assessment.

1 SECTION 2. The Massachusetts Cultural Council shall provide
2 an annual report to the General Court describing the health and
3 vitality of the arts, sciences and humanities in the Commonwealth;
4 that this report shall be drawn from the assessment and measurement
5 project created herein; and provided further that the General Court
6 shall appropriate no less than \$253,000 to the Massachusetts Cul-
7 tural Council, over and above any other general appropriations to the
8 Massachusetts Cultural Council, to accomplish this project and
9 create an annual report to the General Court. The benefits of the
10 annual report and the creation of the assessment tools will be to
11 guide cultural policy, create an enhanced ability to track cultural data
12 and trends over time and compare how Massachusetts performs
13 relative to other states and to the sector at large.