

# SENATE NO. 1880

## **AN ACT** RELATIVE TO STATE 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. Resolve Providing for the establishment of a special commission relative to  
2 conducting an investigation and study of Massachusetts State Government Accountability,  
3 Economy and Efficiency.

4 That a special commission be appointed to investigate and study methods of improving the  
5 accountability, economy and efficiency of the government of the commonwealth and the  
6 operation of its agencies, departments and instrumentalities, hereinafter referred to as “the  
7 commission”.

8 Section 1. Purpose.

9 The purpose of the commission shall be to make recommendations to the Governor and the  
10 General Court to promote economy, efficiency, and improved service in the transaction of the  
11 public business in the various departments, agencies and instrumentalities in the executive,  
12 legislative and judicial branches of state government, and in making the operation of all state

13 departments, agencies, and instrumentalities, and all expenditures of public funds, more directly  
14 responsive to the needs of the Commonwealth, by any or all of the following means:

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

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

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

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

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

26 f) By defining or redefining duties and responsibilities of state officers.

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

30 h) By establishing means for performance measurement and methods of reporting such  
31 measurement.

32 i) Reorganizing all aspects of state career public service including, but not limited to,  
33 methods of recruitment and retention of state employees; training and re-training of state  
34 employees; job classification, salaries and benefits of state employees; discipline and  
35 termination of state employees, clarifying the state responsibilities and functions that are best

36 served by regular state employees and those best served by contract employees; and  
37 encouraging and facilitating opportunities for private sector and non-profit sector employees to  
38 work in state government for limited periods of time.

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

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

## 47 Section 2. Membership.

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

50 a) Thirteen members, of whom seven shall be appointed by the Governor, three by the  
51 President of the Senate, and three by the Speaker of the House. Not more than seven of  
52 such members shall be registered voters in the same political party, and none shall hold  
53 public office in the executive or legislative branches of the state government. Leading  
54 Massachusetts residents in the fields of business and government management,  
55 accounting, labor relations, finance, and human relations including, but not limited to  
56 deans of schools of business, public administration or other scholars would be ideal  
57 candidates for these appointments.

- 58        b) Five members of the Massachusetts Senate who shall be the Senate Chair of Ways and  
59            Means, the Senate Chair of the Committee on Taxation, the Chair of the Senate  
60            Committee on Post Audit and Legislative Oversight, and two members designated by  
61            the Senate Minority Leader.
- 62        c) Five members of the Massachusetts House of Representatives who shall be the House  
63            Chair of Ways and Means, the House Chair of the Committee on Taxation, the Chair of  
64            the House Committee on Post Audit and Legislative Oversight, and two members  
65            designated by the House Minority Leader.
- 66        d) The Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House, who shall  
67            jointly designate the chair or co-chairs of the Task Force, shall each serve on the Task  
68            Force, ex-officio.
- 69        e) The Auditor of the Commonwealth and the Inspector General of the Commonwealth,  
70            ex-officio.

71    Section 3. Meetings and Reports.

72        The Commission shall meet monthly and should have the authority, subject to the approval  
73    of the Secretary of Administration and Finance, to request staff support and research from state  
74    agencies to carry out its responsibilities. The Commission may seek assistance from other  
75    organizations or individuals on a pro bono basis. The Commission shall file annual reports with  
76    the Clerk of the Senate and the Clerk of the House of Representatives and shall make a final  
77    report not later than June 30, 2008. The Commission may make interim reports as appropriate  
78    in order to address the serious fiscal problems facing the Commonwealth in the next few years.

