

SENATE, No. 2182

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PERMANENT COMMISSION ON THE SOCIAL STATUS OF BLACK MALES

*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. Chapter 3 of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the following
2 section:-

3 Section 67. (1) There is established a permanent commission on the social status of Black
4 males consisting of 21 persons as follows: 2 persons appointed by the speaker of the house of
5 representatives, 2 persons appointed by the president of the senate, the commissioner of the
6 department of public health or the designee of said commissioner, the commissioner of the
7 department of social services or the designee of said commissioner, the commissioner of the
8 department of education or the designee of said commissioner and one additional member from
9 the department of education at the discretion of said commissioner, the commissioner of the
10 department of youth services or the designee of said commissioner, the commissioner of the
11 department of corrections or the designee of said commissioner, the director of the department
12 of workforce development or the designee of said director, 3 additional persons appointed by
13 the speaker of the house of representatives provided that no said additional persons shall be
14 members of the general court, 3 additional persons appointed by the president of the senate

15 provided that no said additional persons shall be members of the general court, and 3 persons
16 appointed by the Massachusetts Black Legislative Caucus or its successor organization provided
17 that no persons shall be a member of the general court. Members of the commission shall be
18 selected from diverse religious, age, sexual orientation, socio-economic and geographic
19 backgrounds from throughout the commonwealth and shall have a sincere desire or experience
20 in working toward the improvement of the social status of Black males. Members shall be
21 subject to the provisions of Chapter 268A as they apply to special state employees.

22 (2)(a) Members shall serve terms of three years and until their successors are appointed.
23 Members may be reappointed in the same manner in which they were originally appointed.

24 (b) Vacancies in the membership of the commission shall be filled by the original appointing
25 authority for the balance of the unexpired term.

26 (c) The commission shall elect from among its members a chair, a vice chair, a treasurer and
27 any other officers it deems necessary.

28 (d) The members of the commission shall receive no compensation for their services, but
29 shall be reimbursed for any usual and customary expenses incurred in the performance of their
30 duties.

31 (3) The commission shall conduct an ongoing study of all matters concerning the social status
32 of Black males in the commonwealth. In furtherance of that responsibility, the commission
33 shall: (a) study, review and report on the social status of Black males in the
34 commonwealth; (b) inform leaders of business, education, health care, state and local
35 governments and the media of issues pertaining to Black males, (c) serve as a liaison between
36 government and private interest groups concerned with issues affecting Black males; (d) serve
37 as a clearinghouse for information on issues pertaining to Black males; (e) identify and

38 recommend policies and programs to be implemented by state departments, agencies,
39 commissions, and boards that will lead to the improved social status of Black males, as the
40 commission deems necessary and appropriate; (f) assess programs, policies, and practices of
41 state departments, agencies, commissions and boards as said programs, policies and practices
42 affect Black males, as the commission deems necessary and appropriate; (g) advise executive
43 and legislative bodies of the effect on Black males of proposed legislation, as the commission
44 deems necessary and appropriate; and (h) promote and facilitate collaboration among local
45 agencies, including community based organizations in the state, as the commission deems
46 necessary and appropriate.

47 The commission shall annually, on or before October 15, report the results of its findings and
48 activities of the preceding year and its recommendations to the governor and to the clerks of the
49 senate and house of representatives.

50 (4) The powers of the commission shall include but not be limited to the following: (a) to use
51 such voluntary and uncompensated services of private individuals, agencies and organizations
52 as may from time to time be offered and needed; (b) to recommend policies and make
53 recommendations to agencies and officers of the state and local subdivisions of government to
54 effectuate the purposes of subsection (3); (c) to select an executive director and to acquire
55 adequate staff to perform its duties, subject to appropriation, provided that said persons are not
56 members of said commission; (d) to establish and maintain such offices as it may deem
57 necessary, subject to appropriation; (e) to enact bylaws for its own governance; and (f) to hold
58 regular, public meetings and to hold fact-finding hearings and other public forums as it may
59 deem necessary.

60 (5) The commission shall set its own meeting schedule.

61 (6)(a) The commission may request from all state agencies such information and assistance
62 as the commission may require. Each state agency shall cooperate with requests from the
63 commission and shall provide such information and assistance requested, as permitted under the
64 state law.

65 (b) The commission may accept and solicit funds, including any gifts, donations, grants, or
66 bequests, or any federal funds for any of the purposes of this chapter. Such funds shall be
67 deposited in a separate account with the state treasurer, be received by said treasurer on behalf
68 of the commonwealth, and be expended by the commission in accordance with law.

69 SECTION 2. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 67 of chapter 3 of the General Laws, the
70 initial members of the commission on the status of black males shall be appointed for the
71 following terms:-

72 (a) The speaker of the house of representatives shall appoint, on or before November 1,
73 2007, one member for a term of one year, one member for a term of two years, and one member
74 for a term of three years.

75 (b) The president of the Senate shall appoint, on or before November 1, 2007, one member
76 for a term of one year, one member for a term of two years, and one member for a term of three
77 years.

78 (c) The Massachusetts Black Legislative Caucus or its successor organization shall appoint,
79 on or before November 1, 2007, one member for a term of one year, one member for a term of
80 two years, and one member for a term of three years.