MASSACHUSETTS COMMISSION
ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

H1867, An Act Establishing a Hampshire-Franklin Commission on the Status of Women

Lead Sponsor: Representative Ellen Story

This bill would create a permanent commission on the status of women and girls in the Hampshire-Franklin region which will be responsible for conducting an ongoing study of all matters concerning women in the area. The Commission will report its findings annually which will help in increasing the effectiveness of those organizations designed to aid the women in the area. In this way, the commission will act as an instrument of change, working on a local level to advocate for and promote equity and equal access to health care, employment, economic development, and educational options for women and girls.

Current Law:

- ✓ There are currently six women's county/regional commissions across Massachusetts that serve the women of their county and submit annual reports to the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women. These commissions exist in Berkshire County, Bristol County, the Cape and Islands, Essex County, the MetroWest region, and Worcester County. Additionally, there are eight municipal commissions across the Commonwealth that exist independent of the state commission, but maintain a working relationship with the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women.

Benefits of the Bill:

- ✓ This Commission will cover the existing gap in commission coverage and ensure that the women and girls of Hampshire-Franklin are given a seat at the table and have their voices heard.
- ✓ By encouraging women to participate in their community, this bill will foster a greater sense of involvement and help inspire the next generation of women leaders here in the Commonwealth.

For Additional Information:

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