

An Act Establishing Three New Commissions On the Status of Women



Lead Sponsors: Senator Brady, Senator DeMacedo, Representative Poirier and Representative Barber
Docket Numbers: S1119 in the Senate and H1110 in the House

This bill would establish three new regional commissions on the status of women and girls: an Eastern Regional Commission, an Upper Middlesex Commission, and a Plymouth County Commission—all denoted in white on the map below. The role of the regional commissions is to review the status of women in the communities and then make recommendations regarding policies and programs that would increase opportunities and equalities. The commissions are required to file an annual report on activities, findings, and recommendations. Members will serve three year terms in a volunteer capacity. Each new regional commission will be comprised of nine commissioners and will represent the diversity of the towns and

At this time there are eight active regional women's commissions in Massachusetts (Berkshire, Bristol, Cape Cod and Islands, Essex, MetroWest, Worcester, and the two additional commissions—Hampden and Hampshire/Franklin—that were established in the 15-16 session).

What is the role of Regional Commissions?

The mission of the regional commissions is to provide a permanent and effective voice for women and girls across the Commonwealth. Each commission reports findings annually, which helps to increase the effectiveness of those organizations designed to aid women in the area. The commissions act as instruments of change, working on local levels to advocate for and promote equality.

Why do we need more Regional Commissions?

These Commissions will cover the existing gaps in commission coverage and ensure that the women and girls of the Eastern Region, Upper Middlesex, and Plymouth are given a seat at the table and have their voices heard.

By encouraging women to participate in their community, these bills will foster a greater sense of involvement and inspire future generations of women leaders here in the Commonwealth.

