

SENATE, No. 2884

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED DURING PAST SESSION
SEE NO. OF]



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

IN THE YEAR OF TWO THOUSAND AND EIGHT

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE CAPE COD AND ISLANDS COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN.

*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. There is established a permanent commission on the status of women in Barnstable,
- 2 Dukes and Nantucket Counties consisting of 13 persons who are to be appointed by the Massachusetts
- 3 Commission on the Status of Women. The commission shall conduct an ongoing study of all matters
- 4 concerning women on Cape Cod and the Islands. The commission shall report their findings to the
- 5 Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women annually and recommend solutions to the
- 6 problems facing the women of Cape Cod and the Islands.
- 7 The Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women shall make such appointments to the Cape
- 8 Cod and Islands commission from a pool of applicants who reside in Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket
- 9 Counties.

10 (1) Members shall serve a term of 3 years and until their successors are appointed. Commissioners may
11 be reappointed for 2 consecutive terms. After the completion of 2 consecutive terms, former
12 commissioners may reapply to serve on the commission after a year has passed since their last term.
13 The initial members of the Cape Cod and Islands Commission on the Status of Women shall be
14 appointed for the following terms: 4 members for a term of one year, 4 members for a term of two
15 years, and 5 members for a term of three years.

16 (2) Vacancies in the membership of the commission shall be filled by the Massachusetts Commission
17 on the Status of Women for the balance of the unexpired term.

18 3) Appointments by the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women to the Cape Cod and
19 Islands Commission on the Status of Women shall be made in consultation with women's
20 organizations. Nominations shall be solicited between each year through an open application that is
21 widely distributed throughout Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket Counties. Members of the commission
22 should be diverse and represent different towns and municipalities in Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket
23 Counties.

24 (4) Members shall serve on the commission as volunteers and will not be compensated.

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

27 (6) The commission shall meet at least 6 times a year, at the members' discretion. Members of the
28 Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women may attend the meetings of the Cape Cod and
29 Islands Commission on the Status of Women.

30 (7) The commission may accept and solicit funds, including any gifts, donations, grants, or bequests, or
31 any federal funds for any of the purposes of this section. Such funds shall be deposited in a separate
32 account to be expended at the discretion of the commission.

33 (8) The powers of the commission shall include but not be limited to the following: a) to use voluntary
34 and uncompensated services of private individuals, agencies and organizations as may from time to
35 time be offered and needed; b) to recommend policies and make recommendations to agencies and
36 officers of the state and local subdivisions of government to effectuate the purposes of the commission;
37 c) to enact bylaws for its own governance; and d) to hold regular, public meetings and to hold fact-
38 finding hearings and other public forums as it may deem necessary.