

SENATE No. 1080

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Anne M. Gobi

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act establishing the Hampden County Commission on the Status of Women and Girls.

PETITION OF:

| NAME: | DISTRICT/ADDRESS: |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Anne M. Gobi</i> | <i>Worcester, Hampden, Hampshire and Middlesex</i> |
| <i>Brian M. Ashe</i> | <i>2nd Hampden</i> |
| <i>Todd M. Smola</i> | <i>1st Hampden</i> |
| <i>Sean Garballey</i> | <i>23rd Middlesex</i> |
| <i>Sarah K. Peake</i> | <i>4th Barnstable</i> |
| <i>Jose F. Tosado</i> | <i>9th Hampden</i> |
| <i>Nicholas A. Boldyga</i> | <i>3rd Hampden</i> |
| <i>John C. Velis</i> | <i>4th Hampden</i> |
| <i>Aaron Vega</i> | <i>5th Hampden</i> |
| <i>Michael J. Finn</i> | <i>6th Hampden</i> |
| <i>Thomas M. Petrolati</i> | <i>7th Hampden</i> |
| <i>Joseph F. Wagner</i> | <i>8th Hampden</i> |
| <i>Carlos Gonzalez</i> | <i>10th Hampden</i> |
| <i>Benjamin Swan</i> | <i>11th Hampden</i> |
| <i>Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr.</i> | <i>12th Hampden</i> |
| <i>Benjamin B. Downing</i> | <i>Berkshire, Hampshire, Franklin and Hampden</i> |

| | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| <i>Eric P. Lesser</i> | <i>First Hampden and Hampshire</i> |
| <i>Donald F. Humason, Jr.</i> | <i>Second Hampden and Hampshire</i> |
| <i>James T. Welch</i> | <i>Hampden</i> |
| <i>Jennifer E. Benson</i> | <i>37th Middlesex</i> |
| <i>Michael D. Brady</i> | <i>Second Plymouth and Bristol</i> |
| <i>Timothy R. Madden</i> | <i>Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket</i> |
| <i>Peter V. Kocot</i> | <i>1st Hampshire</i> |
| <i>Paul R. Heroux</i> | <i>2nd Bristol</i> |
| <i>Ruth B. Balsler</i> | <i>12th Middlesex</i> |
| <i>Mary S. Keefe</i> | <i>15th Worcester</i> |

SENATE No. 1080

By Ms. Gobi, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1080) of Anne M. Gobi, Brian M. Ashe, Todd M. Smola, Sean Garballey and other members of the General Court for legislation to create the Hampden County Commission on the Status of Women and Girls. Municipalities and Regional Government.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court
(2015-2016)**

An Act establishing the Hampden County Commission on the Status of Women and Girls.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 (a) There shall be a Hampden County Commission on the Status of Women and Girls
2 which shall consist of nine persons to be appointed by the Massachusetts Commission on the
3 Status of Women established in section 66 of chapter 3 of the General Laws. The Hampden
4 County commission shall conduct an ongoing study of all matters concerning women in
5 Hampden County. The commission shall report its findings to the Massachusetts Commission on
6 the Status of Women annually, not later than June 2, and recommend solutions to the problems
7 facing the women of Hampden County. The Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women
8 shall make appointments to the Hampden commission from a pool of applicants who reside in
9 Hampden County.

10 (b) Members shall serve three-year terms and shall remain in office until their successors
11 are appointed. Members shall not be reappointed for more than two consecutive terms. However,
12 former commissioners may reapply to serve on the commission after one year has passed since

13 their last term. Of the initial members appointed to the Hampden County Commission on the
14 Status of Women and Girls, three members shall be appointed for a term of one year, three
15 members shall be appointed for a term of two years and three members shall be appointed for a
16 term of three years.

17 (c) Vacancies in the membership of the Hampden County commission shall be filled
18 by the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women for the balance of the unexpired
19 term.

20 (d) In making appointments to the Hampden County Commission on the Status of
21 Women and Girls, the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women shall consult with
22 women's organizations. Nominations shall be solicited between August 1 and September 16
23 annually through an open application that shall be widely distributed throughout Hampden
24 County. Members of the commission shall be diverse and represent a variety of the towns and
25 municipalities in Hampden County.

26 (e) Members shall serve on the Hampden County Commission on the Status of Women
27 as volunteers and shall not be compensated.

28 (f) The Hampden County Commission on the Status of Women shall elect from among
29 its members a chair, a vice chair, and any other officers as it deems necessary.

30 (g) The Hampden County Commission on the Status of Women and Girls shall meet at
31 least four times a year, at the members' discretion.

32 (h) The Hampden County Commission on the Status of Women and Girls may: (i) use
33 voluntary and uncompensated services of private individuals, agencies and organizations as may,

34 from time to time, be offered or required; (ii) recommend policies and make recommendations to
35 state and local agencies and officers to effectuate the purposes of the commission; (iii) enact by-
36 laws for its own governance; (iv) hold regular public meetings, conduct fact-finding hearings and
37 hold other public forums as it deems necessary; and (v) take other actions as it deems necessary
38 to effectuate its purposes.