

HOUSE No. 168

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Chynah Tyler

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 The establishment of a permanent commission on the social status of Black men and boys.

PETITION OF:

| NAME: | DISTRICT/ADDRESS: |
|------------------------------------|--|
| <i>Chynah Tyler</i> | <i>7th Suffolk</i> |
| <i>Bud L. Williams</i> | <i>11th Hampden</i> |
| <i>Tackey Chan</i> | <i>2nd Norfolk</i> |
| <i>Joanne M. Comerford</i> | <i>Hampshire, Franklin and Worcester</i> |
| <i>Michelle M. DuBois</i> | <i>10th Plymouth</i> |
| <i>Nika C. Elugardo</i> | <i>15th Suffolk</i> |
| <i>Carlos Gonzalez</i> | <i>10th Hampden</i> |
| <i>Russell E. Holmes</i> | <i>6th Suffolk</i> |
| <i>David Henry Argosky LeBoeuf</i> | <i>17th Worcester</i> |
| <i>Liz Miranda</i> | <i>5th Suffolk</i> |
| <i>Rady Mom</i> | <i>18th Middlesex</i> |
| <i>Tram T. Nguyen</i> | <i>18th Essex</i> |
| <i>Sarah K. Peake</i> | <i>4th Barnstable</i> |
| <i>Maria Duaine Robinson</i> | <i>6th Middlesex</i> |
| <i>Paul A. Schmid, III</i> | <i>8th Bristol</i> |
| <i>Donald H. Wong</i> | <i>9th Essex</i> |

HOUSE No. 168

By Ms. Tyler of Boston, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 168) of Chynah Tyler and others for the establishment of a permanent commission (including members of the General Court) on the social status of Black men and boys. Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court
(2019-2020)**

An Act The establishment of a permanent commission on the social status of Black men and boys.

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 70. (1) A Commission to study and examine issues which disproportionately
4 have a negative impact on Black men and boys in Massachusetts will signal that the issues facing
5 the Black male population are a national priority, will develop solutions to these hardships, and
6 will help eliminate the obstacles facing Black men and boys. The Commission should work to
7 improve economic, education, criminal justice, public safety, housing, health and wellness,
8 father-hood, and mentorship outcomes of black men and boys in the Commonwealth of
9 Massachusetts.

10 (2) There is established a permanent commission on the social status of black men and
11 boys consisting of 21 persons as follows: 2 persons appointed by the speaker of the house of

12 representatives, 2 persons appointed by the president of the senate, the commissioner of the
13 department of public health or the designee of said commissioner, the commissioner of the
14 department of social services or the designee of said commissioner, the commissioner of the
15 department of education or the designee of said commissioner, and one additional member from
16 the department of education at the discretion of said commissioner, the commissioner of the
17 department of youth services or the designee of said commissioner, the commissioner of the
18 department of corrections or the designee of said commissioner, the director of the department of
19 workforce development or the designee of said director, 3 additional persons appointed by the
20 speaker of the house of representatives provided that no said additional persons shall be members
21 of the general court, 3 additional persons appointed by the president of the senate provided that
22 no said additional persons shall be members of the general court, and 3 persons appointed by the
23 Massachusetts Black and Latino Legislative Caucus or its successor organization provided that
24 no persons shall be a member of the general court. Members of the commission shall be selected
25 from diverse religious, age, sexual orientation, socio-economic, and geographical backgrounds
26 from throughout the commonwealth and shall have a sincere desire or experience in working
27 toward the improvement of the social status of black men and boys. Members shall be subject to
28 the provisions of Chapter 268A as they apply to special state employees.

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

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

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

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

38 (4) The commission shall conduct an ongoing study of all matters concerning the social
39 status of black men and boys in the commonwealth. In furtherance of that responsibility, the
40 commission shall: (a) study, review and report on the social status of black men and boys in the
41 commonwealth; (b) inform leaders of business, education, health care, state and local
42 governments and the media of issues pertaining to black men and boys, (c) serve as a liaison
43 between government and private interest groups concerned with issues affecting black men and
44 boys; (d) serve as a clearinghouse for information on issues pertaining to black men and boys; (e)
45 identify and recommend policies and programs to be implemented by state departments,
46 agencies, commissions, and boards that will lead to the improved social status of black men and
47 boys, as the commission deems necessary and appropriate; and (h) promote and facilitate
48 collaboration among local agencies, including community-based organizations in the state, as the
49 commission deems necessary and appropriate.

50 The commission shall annually, on or before August 31, 2020, report the results of its
51 findings and activities of the preceding year and its recommendations to the Governor and to the
52 clerk of the Senate and House of Representatives.

53 (5) The powers of the commission shall include but not be limited to the following: (a) to
54 use such voluntary and uncompensated services of private individuals, agencies, and

55 organizations as may from time to time be offered and needed; (b) to recommend policies and
56 make recommendations to agencies and officers of the state and local subdivisions of
57 government to effectuate the purposes of subsection

58 (3); (c) to select and executive director and to acquire adequate staff to perform its duties,
59 subject to appropriation, provided that said persons are not members of said commission; (d) to
60 establish and maintain such offices as it may deem necessary, subject to appropriation; (e) to
61 enact bylaws for its own governance; and (f) to hold regular, public meetings and to hold fact
62 finding hearings and other public forums as it may deem necessary.

63 (6) The commission shall set its own meeting schedule.

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

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

72 SECTION 2: Notwithstanding the provisions of section 70 of chapter 3 of the General
73 Laws, the initial members of the commission on the status on black men and boys shall be
74 appointed for the following terms:-

75 (a) The speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint, on or before November 1,
76 2019, one member for a term of one year, one member for a term of two years, and one member
77 for a term of three years.

78 (b) The president of the Senate shall appoint, on or before November 1, 2019, one
79 member for a term of one year, one member for a term of two years, and one member for a term
80 of three years.

81 (c) The Massachusetts Black and Latino Legislative Caucus or its successor organization
82 shall appoint, on or before November 1, 2019, one member for a term of one year, one member
83 for a term of two years, and one member for a term of three years.