

HOUSE No. 02105

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Peter V. Kocot

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 passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to preserving Polish heritage in the Pioneer Valley

□.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Peter V. Kocot</i>	<i>1st Hampshire</i>
<i>Anne M. Gobi</i>	<i>5th Worcester</i>
<i>Michael R. Knapik</i>	<i>Second Hampden and Hampshire</i>

HOUSE No. 02105

By Mr. Kocot of Northampton, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2105) of Knapik and others for an investigation by a special commission (including members of the General Court) relative to the establishment of a Pioneer Valley Polish heritage institute at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst Joint Committee on Higher Education.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE
□ HOUSE
□ , NO. 1165 OF 2009-2010.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Eleven

An Act relative to preserving Polish heritage in the Pioneer Valley
□.

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. Whereas, the Pioneer Valley is the home to more people of Polish heritage than
- 2 any other area of Massachusetts, and
- 3 Whereas, public colleges and universities have suffered reductions in funding for studies of the
- 4 arts and humanities during the past several years, and
- 5 Whereas, the documentation, preservation and research of this heritage and the contributions of
- 6 the Polish people to the socioeconomic vitality of this region and the Commonwealth is an
- 7 important public policy goal, therefore

8 There is hereby established a special commission to investigate and support the preservation of
9 Polish culture and history in the Pioneer Valley. The purpose of said special commission shall
10 be to promote public support and funding of Polish cultural preservation activities in western
11 Massachusetts, and to compliment those activities that acknowledge the contributions people of
12 Polish heritage have made and continue to make to the Pioneer Valley and the Commonwealth of
13 Massachusetts. Said commission shall evaluate the public and private resources available to
14 preserve and research Polish language, history, culture, genealogy and the immigrant experience.
15 Said commission will serve as a public clearinghouse for legislative and private efforts to secure
16 additional funding for archival and educational efforts.

17 Said special commission shall be comprised of three members of the House of Representatives,
18 appointed by the Speaker, of which at least two shall be of Polish heritage; two members of the
19 Senate, appointed by the Senate President; three members appointed by the Governor, in
20 consultation with the legislative delegation representing the Pioneer Valley, all of which shall be
21 officers in Polish heritage or Polish genealogical organizations located in Hampshire, Hampden
22 or Franklin counties and one member to be recommended by the chair of the Slavic studies
23 department at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

24 Said special commission may receive funding through state appropriation for the purposes of this
25 act, provided that a state college or community college located in the Pioneer Valley, may
26 allocate meeting room space for the purposes of said special commission, and provided further,
27 that the special commission shall file its report, including a fiscal note, with the Clerks of the
28 House and Senate, the Chairmen of the House and Senate committees on ways and means, no
29 later than March 1, 2012.