

HOUSE No. 2850

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Michelle L. Ciccolo

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 a tax revenue fairness and implementation commission.

PETITION OF:

| NAME: | DISTRICT/ADDRESS: | DATE ADDED: |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| <i>Michelle L. Ciccolo</i> | <i>15th Middlesex</i> | <i>2/1/2021</i> |
| <i>Tami L. Gouveia</i> | <i>14th Middlesex</i> | <i>2/22/2021</i> |
| <i>Christina A. Minicucci</i> | <i>14th Essex</i> | <i>2/24/2021</i> |
| <i>David M. Rogers</i> | <i>24th Middlesex</i> | <i>2/26/2021</i> |
| <i>Christopher Hendricks</i> | <i>11th Bristol</i> | <i>2/26/2021</i> |

HOUSE No. 2850

By Ms. Ciccolo of Lexington, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2850) of Michelle L. Ciccolo and others for legislation to establish a special commission (including members of the General Court) to study the federal, state and local tax laws applicable to residents of the Commonwealth. Revenue.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Second General Court
(2021-2022)**

An Act establishing a tax revenue fairness and implementation commission.

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

1 There shall be established, pursuant to section 2A of chapter 4 of the General Laws, a tax
2 revenue fairness and implementation commission to study the federal, state and local tax laws
3 applicable to residents of the commonwealth. The commission shall review and evaluate the
4 impact of the federal tax code on Massachusetts with particular focus on the changes made by
5 Congress in U.S. Public Law 115-97; update the 2014 Massachusetts Tax Fairness
6 Commission’s report, and develop further action steps to implement the recommendations
7 contained therein; determine the level of structural deficit, if any, that exists due to insufficient
8 revenue; and suggest new revenue sources or increases to existing revenue sources. The
9 commission shall examine the experiences and policy efforts of other states relating to tax
10 fairness and equity.

11 The commission shall file a report with the clerks of the senate and house of
12 representatives not later than 9 months after the establishment of said commission. The report

13 shall include, but not be limited to: (i) the total amount of taxes currently paid by individuals at
14 various income levels; (ii) the effects that changes to tax laws would have on individuals of all
15 income levels; (iii) the changes in revenue collected by the commonwealth as a result of recent
16 federal tax law revisions; (iv) the adequacy of revenue generated by individuals, businesses and
17 any other tax types; (v) tax rates necessary to fund required investments in public infrastructure
18 and education; (vi) tax rates necessary to promote prosperity for all residents; (vii) the impact of
19 restrictions on tax rates under Article XLIV of the Amendments to the Constitution; (viii)
20 recommendations for changes in laws to achieve an equitable and adequate system of taxation;
21 (ix) the best practices of other states; (x) tax rates necessary to ensure economic competitiveness
22 with peer and competitor states; (xi) tax rates necessary to avoid destabilization of household
23 budgets or undue hardships for citizens; and (xii) tax rates necessary to foster and encourage
24 robust private sector investment in capital equipment and the commonwealth's work force.

25 The commission shall consist of the house and senate chairs of the joint committee on
26 revenue, who shall serve as co-chairs of the commission; the secretary of administration and
27 finance or the secretary's designee; the commissioner of the department of revenue or the
28 commissioner's designee; the minority leader of the house of representatives or a designee; the
29 minority leader of the senate or a designee; the chairs of the house and senate committees on
30 ways and means or the chairs' designees; a representative from the Massachusetts Budget and
31 Policy Center; a representative from the Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation; a representative
32 from the Massachusetts Municipal Association; a representative from the Boston Foundation; a
33 representative from the Massachusetts Society of Enrolled Agents; a representative from the
34 Massachusetts Society of CPAs; a representative who works in a Low Income Tax Clinic,
35 appointed by the speaker; a representative who works with the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance

36 program, appointed by the speaker; 1 member appointed by the speaker of the house of
37 representatives; 1 member appointed by the president of the senate; and 3 members appointed
38 by the governor, at least 1 of whom shall represent labor and 2 of whom shall have expertise in
39 economics or tax policy.