

HOUSE No. 4076

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act establishing a women's rights history trail.

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 6C of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the
2 following section:-

3 Section 77. (a) As used in this section, the following words shall have the following
4 meanings:

5 “Executive director”, the executive director of the office of travel and tourism.

6 “Secretary”, the secretary of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation.

7 (b) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the secretary, in
8 conjunction with the executive director, shall develop and implement a Women’s Rights History
9 Trail program, which shall include designating properties and sites that are historically and
10 thematically associated with the struggle for women’s rights and women’s suffrage. Said
11 program shall promote education and awareness of the struggle for women’s rights in the
12 commonwealth.

13 (c) The secretary and executive director shall produce and disseminate appropriate
14 educational materials regarding the trail program, which may include handbooks, maps, exhibits,
15 uniform signs, interpretive guides and electronic information.

16 (d) The executive director shall develop vacation itineraries based on the Women's
17 Rights History Trail program, which shall identify surrounding attractions, restaurants, farms,
18 lodging and other exhibits or places of entertainment as may be a part of the historical theme
19 linking the properties and sites in the Women's Rights History Trail program.

20 (e) The secretary may erect and maintain signs on the state highway system or trails
21 designated pursuant to this section; provided that any trail designation shall be of a ceremonial
22 nature and the official names of such highways shall not be changed as a result of such
23 designations.

24 (f) In developing and implementing the Women's Rights History Trail program, the
25 secretary shall consider the recommendations of the Women's Rights History Trail Task Force
26 of 2019-2020.

27 SECTION 2. There shall be established, pursuant to section 2A of chapter 4 of the
28 General Laws, the Women's Rights History Trail Task Force of 2019-2020 to research, solicit
29 public input and make recommendations for sites, properties and attractions to be included in the
30 Women's Rights History Trail program established pursuant to section 1. The task force shall
31 consider, in making such recommendations, sites that (i) are historically and thematically
32 associated with the struggle for women's rights and women's suffrage; (ii) are geographically
33 diverse; and (iii) commemorate individuals who reflect racial, ethnic, cultural and economic
34 diversity.

35 The task force shall consist of the following 13 members: the house and senate chairs of
36 the joint committee on tourism, arts, and cultural development, who shall serve as co-chairs of
37 the task force; 1 person to be appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives; 1 person
38 to be appointed by the president of the senate; the minority leader of the house of representatives,
39 or their designee; the minority leader of the senate, or their designee; the house and senate chairs
40 of the Massachusetts Caucus of Women Legislators, or their designees; the secretary of the
41 Massachusetts Department of Transportation, or their designee; the executive director of the
42 Massachusetts office of travel and tourism, or their designee; the executive director of the
43 commission on the status of women, established pursuant to section 66 of chapter 3 of the
44 General Laws; 1 person to be appointed by the commission on the status of women, established
45 pursuant to said section 66 of said chapter 3; and a representative of the Massachusetts Historical
46 Society.

47 The task force shall submit its findings and recommendations with the clerks of the house
48 of representatives and senate not later than July 31, 2020.