

HOUSE No. 4677

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, May 28, 2024.

The committee on Community Development and Small Businesses, to whom were referred the petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 133) of Jason M. Lewis and Rebecca L. Rausch for legislation to establish the Office of Massachusetts Main Streets, the petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 139) of John C. Velis for legislation to establish the MassMade Program, the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 228) of Antonio F. D. Cabral and others for legislation to promote downtown vitality, the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 229) of Josh S. Cutler, Kathleen R. LaNatra and others that the Office of Business Development establish a MassMade program to identify, connect and support businesses that produce consumer goods in the Commonwealth and the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 235) of Adam Scanlon for legislation to establish a one-stop shop interactive web portal to be known as the MassMakers portal for prospective and established businesses in the Commonwealth, reports recommending that the accompanying bill (House, No. 4677) ought to pass.

For the committee,

PAUL MCMURTRY.

HOUSE No. 4677

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**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court
(2023-2024)**

An Act supporting economic growth of downtowns and main streets.

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. This Act may be known as the MassMakers Act. For purposes of this Act,
2 the following terms shall have the following meanings unless the context clearly requires
3 otherwise:

4 “Mass Main Streets”, the office of Massachusetts main streets established pursuant to
5 Section 5 of this Act, for the purpose of protecting, coordinating, promoting, and revitalizing
6 downtowns and commercial districts of the commonwealth’s cities and towns.

7 “MassMade business”, an enterprise which (i) has its principal place of business in the
8 commonwealth; (ii) is in good standing with the department of revenue; (iii) is registered with
9 Supply Mass/Buy Mass, as defined in this Act; and (iv) produces raw materials, including
10 agricultural items, in the commonwealth, or manufactures products or goods in the
11 commonwealth.

12 “MassMakers Portal”, the one-stop shop interactive web portal established pursuant to
13 Section 3 of this Act for prospective and established businesses in the commonwealth, to serve as
14 the single, unified entry point for business information and statutory and regulatory compliance.

15 “Massport Model”, the bidder selection model implemented by the port authority which,
16 in the port authority’s requests for proposals, requires bidders to incorporate diversity and
17 inclusion plans into their bids, such plans to be considered alongside traditional criteria when
18 evaluating bids and given a weight of 25%.

19 “Microbusiness”, an enterprise which has its principal place of business in the
20 commonwealth, is independently owned and operated, and (i) if a manufacturing firm, has 25 or
21 fewer employees, or (ii) if a service, construction or non-manufacturing firm, has 25 or fewer
22 employees and average annual gross receipts over the 3 previous years not exceeding
23 \$3,500,000, indexed for inflation.

24 “Minority business”, an enterprise which has its principal place of business in the
25 commonwealth, is independently owned and operated, and at least 51% of which is owned and
26 dominantly controlled by adult minority principals as defined in 425 CMR 2.02(1), or any
27 successor regulation thereto.

28 “Small business”, a business entity, including its affiliates, that: (i) is independently
29 owned and operated; (ii) has a principal place of business in the commonwealth; and (iii) would
30 be defined as a "small business" under applicable federal law, as established in the United States
31 Code and promulgated from time to time by the United States Small Business Administration.

32 “Supply Mass/Buy Mass”, the program established pursuant to Section 4 of this Act for
33 the purpose of connecting local suppliers with local purchasers.

34 “Massachusetts-based business”, an enterprise that: (i) has its principal place of business
35 in the commonwealth; (ii) is in good standing with the department of revenue; and (iii) has been
36 in business for at least 1 year.”

37 SECTION 2. Section 22O of chapter 7 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2020
38 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding the following paragraph:-

39 When procuring goods or services through requests for proposals, state agencies shall
40 consider the bidder’s principal place of business in addition to other criteria when evaluating
41 bids. The weight given to Massachusetts-based businesses when evaluating bids shall be
42 determined by each agency of the commonwealth in collaboration with the executive office of
43 housing and economic development, the executive office of labor and workforce development
44 and the executive office for administration and finance.

45 SECTION 3. Chapter 9 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section
46 31 the following section:-

47 Section 32: MassMakers Portal

48 Section 32. (a) There is hereby established a one-stop shop interactive web portal to be
49 known as the MassMakers Portal for prospective and established businesses in the
50 commonwealth. The state secretary, the executive office for administration and finance, the
51 executive offices of education, energy and environmental affairs, health and human services,
52 housing and economic development, labor and workforce development, public safety and
53 security, and technology services and security, and the department of revenue shall jointly
54 develop and implement the MassMakers Portal, which shall serve as a single, unified entry point
55 for prospective and established businesses to obtain local business information and execute all

56 statutory and regulatory compliance tasks required by the commonwealth in connection with the
57 creation, continuing operation, or upscaling of business.

58 (b) In order to develop and implement the MassMakers Portal, the agencies identified in
59 subsection (a) shall assemble a task force which shall consist of the state secretary, ex officio, or
60 a designee, the secretaries of administration and finance, education, energy and environmental
61 affairs, health and human services, housing and economic development, labor and workforce
62 development, public safety and security, and technology services and security, ex officio, or their
63 designees, the commissioner of revenue, ex officio, or a designee; 7 persons appointed by the
64 attorney general, 1 of whom shall be from each of the 7 regions of the commonwealth: the
65 western region, the central region, the northeast region, the Merrimack Valley, the metro west
66 region, the Greater Boston region, and the southeast region; and 7 persons appointed by the
67 governor, 1 of whom shall be from each of the 7 identified regions of the commonwealth. The
68 governor, attorney general, state treasurer, and co-chairs of the task force shall have the
69 discretion to appoint other members to the task force by majority vote. Persons appointed to the
70 task force shall be members or representatives of the business community, including
71 entrepreneurs, microbusiness owners, minority business owners and small business owners,
72 and/or have demonstrated interests and experience in state agency processes, business
73 regulations, web portal design and implementation, and/or other qualifications and experience
74 that the appointing authorities determine are necessary to fulfilling the mission of the task force.
75 Members shall be selected without regard to political affiliation, shall as fully as possible
76 represent a diverse and equitable array of stakeholders, and shall serve without compensation.
77 The state secretary, or a designee from among the members of the task force, and the secretary of

78 housing and economic development, or a designee from among the members of the task force,
79 shall serve as co-chairs.

80 (c) The task force shall perform a needs and cost assessment and may, subject to
81 appropriation and the laws and regulations pertaining to the employment of consultants, employ
82 such consultants as the task force deems necessary to assist in the execution of said assessment.
83 Said assessment shall be completed and the results thereof shall be presented to the governor and
84 the general court by March 1, 2025, to inform the budget of the next legislative annual session.
85 The assessment shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

86 (1) recommendations on the location, design, functionality and scope of services of the
87 MassMakers Portal, which at a minimum shall include:

88 (i) online account services through which businesses can monitor deadlines for
89 submission of forms, documents and payments, as well as compliance status and standing with
90 each state agency;

91 (ii) electronic applications for licenses and renewals thereof;

92 (iii) electronic payment options for fees and taxes incident to the creation, continuing
93 operation or upscaling of business;

94 (iv) compliance alerts in connection with new or revised state statutes, regulations and
95 procedures;

96 (v) toolkits and video tutorials on all aspects of starting a business in the commonwealth,
97 operating a business, upscaling a business, completing forms and complying with state statutory
98 and regulatory requirements in connection therewith;

99 (vi) Supply Mass/Buy Mass information, and coordination with Supply Mass/Buy Mass
100 online services;

101 (vii) Mass Main Streets information, and coordination with Mass Main Streets online
102 services;

103 and

104 (viii) technical assistance resources;

105 (2) an estimate of the costs of full implementation of the MassMakers Portal, including,
106 but not limited to, those associated with technology, infrastructure, operations and maintenance,
107 sharing and coordination of agency data, and security;

108 (3) recommendations for and an estimate of the costs of establishing and maintaining a
109 help center staffed with persons trained to answer questions and assist with navigation of the
110 MassMakers Portal;

111 (4) recommendations on the time-line for designing, developing and testing the
112 MassMakers Portal, which at the latest shall have its first testing phase for the state secretary's
113 office to process new business registrations and associated fee payments by December 31, 2024 ,
114 and shall have its second testing phase to submit tax payments with the department of revenue by
115 December 31, 2025 ;

116 (5) recommendations as to the roles of the agencies identified in subsection (a) regarding
117 ongoing operational management of the MassMakers Portal;

118 (6) a comprehensive analysis of the processes of all state agencies with respect to the
119 creation, continued operation or upscaling of businesses located in the commonwealth, with a

120 goal of simplifying and streamlining regulatory tasks and forms required by said agencies and
121 strengthening the delivery of services provided by said agencies to entrepreneurs,
122 microbusinesses, small businesses, and other businesses in the commonwealth;

123 (7) identification of any state statutory, regulatory or procedural changes that need to be
124 made to effectuate the functionality of the MassMakers Portal;

125 (8) identification of existing entrepreneurial, microbusiness, small business, and other
126 business assets, resources, web content and functions provided by state agencies to coordinate
127 and incorporate such assets, resources, web content and functions into the MassMakers Portal;

128 (9) identification of potential impediments to functionality posed by federal law, if any,
129 and recommendations for work-arounds or solutions to such impediments;

130 (10) the impact of prioritizing microbusiness applications and account services; and

131 (11) recommendations on potential incentives to encourage municipalities or regional
132 planning authorities to create local portals for similar purposes or committed to similar mission
133 outcomes as the MassMakers Portal, with the option of linking to or being incorporated into the
134 MassMakers Portal.

135 (d) The task force may, subject to appropriation, appoint and may remove all such
136 employees as may be necessary to carry out the work of designing and implementing the
137 MassMakers Portal based on the results of the needs and cost assessment. Unless otherwise
138 provided by law, all such appointments and removals of employees shall be made under chapter
139 31.

140 (e) The state secretary shall hold as a separate fund and may expend such sums as may be
141 appropriated for the MassMakers Portal by the general court, and may accept gifts, donations,
142 grants or bequests or any federal funds for any of the purposes set forth in this section, which
143 shall be credited to the fund. All available money in the fund that is unexpended at the end of
144 each fiscal year shall not revert to the General Fund and shall be available for expenditure by the
145 task force in the subsequent fiscal year.

146 (f) The state secretary is hereby authorized to promulgate regulations to assure the timely
147 and effective implementation of this section.

148 SECTION 4. Chapter 10 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2020 Official Edition,
149 is hereby amended by inserting after section 35PPP, the following new section:

150 Section 35QQQ. (a) As used in this section, the following words shall, unless the context
151 requires otherwise, have the following meanings:-

152 “Agency”, the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development.

153 “Commercial areas”, meaning central business districts, town centers, commercial
154 corridors (“Main Streets”), neighborhood-serving commercial districts, and other walkable,
155 mixed-use areas.

156 “District management entities”, which may include business improvement districts as
157 defined in section 1 of chapter 40o of the general laws, parking benefit districts as defined in
158 section 22A1/2 of chapter 40 of the general laws, cultural districts as defined in section 58A of
159 chapter 10 of the general laws, or other district management strategies approved by the agency.

160 “Secretary”, the Secretary of Housing and Economic Development.

161 "Fund", the Downtown Vitality Fund, established under subsection (b) of section 35QQQ
162 of chapter 10 of the general laws.

163 "Dedicated remote retailers sales tax revenue amount", all moneys received by the
164 commonwealth equal to 1 per cent of the receipts from sales from remote retailers, which include
165 both remote marketplace sellers and remote marketplace facilitators as defined by 830 CMR
166 64H.1.9.

167 (b) There is hereby established on the books of the commonwealth a separate fund to be
168 known as the Downtown Vitality Fund. There shall be credited to the fund the dedicated remote
169 retailers sales tax revenue amount. Annual receipts into the fund on account of any fiscal year
170 shall be considered to meet the full obligation of the commonwealth to the fund for said fiscal
171 year.

172 (c) Amounts in the fund shall be held by the Executive Office of Economic Development,
173 exclusively for the purposes of the fund, and the agency shall disburse amounts in the fund,
174 without further appropriation, upon the request from time to time of its Secretary. All amounts in
175 the fund, including investment earnings, shall be available for expenditure by the agency for any
176 lawful purpose.

177 (d) The agency shall report annually on grants dispersed by the fund to the clerks of the
178 house and senate and to the house and senate committees on ways and means.

179 (e) The agency shall make expenditures from the fund for the following purposes and
180 subject to the following guidelines:

181 (1) To provide grants to establish district management entities in commercial areas.

182 (2) To provide operating grants to help strengthen and sustain existing district
183 management entities approved by the agency. sustain.

184 (3) To provide technical assistance grants for local district management entities to
185 conduct studies or launch new programs, and which might be paid to a third-party entity.

186 (4) The agency will establish guidelines for awarding grants, which will incorporate the
187 following priorities: support small business districts in Gateway Cities and other low-income
188 areas; expand entrepreneurship opportunities among underrepresented communities; strengthen
189 cultural identity and prevent cultural displacement; provide multi-year operating funding where
190 appropriate; and encourage a local match set at a level commensurate with the strength of the
191 local market economy.

192 (f) Not later than September 1 of each year, the secretary shall file a report in writing with
193 the joint committee on community development and small businesses and the house and senate
194 committees on ways and means concerning the grants made in the fiscal year ending on the
195 preceding June 30.

196 (g) The secretary shall adopt regulations to carry out this section, including providing an
197 application and selection process.

198 (h) There shall be established a board to be known as the Downtown Vitality Advisory
199 Board. Said board shall consist of 15 members, who shall be citizens of the commonwealth, and
200 appointed by the secretary. The members of the board shall include at least one representative of
201 the Massachusetts Development Finance Agency (MassDevelopment); at least one representative
202 of the Massachusetts Cultural Council; at least two business improvement districts; at least two
203 cultural districts; at least one Gateway City mayor, manager, or economic development director;

204 at least one non-Gateway City municipal representative; and at least three members from small
205 businesses or groups serving underrepresented communities, including immigrants and people of
206 color. Of the members originally appointed, 3 shall serve a term of 1 year, 3 shall serve a term of
207 2 years, and 3 shall serve a term of 3 years in a manner determined by the director. Thereafter, as
208 the terms of said members expire, the director shall appoint members for terms of 2 years.
209 Vacancies shall be filled by appointment by the director for the remainder of the unexpired term.
210 All members shall serve until the qualification of their respective successors. Members shall
211 serve without compensation. The board shall advise the director on the activities and uses of the
212 fund including, but not limited to: reviewing and making recommendations on grant
213 requirements and selection criteria, and reviewing grant applications and making
214 recommendations relative to grant awards. The advisory board shall, from time to time, submit
215 recommendations to the legislature on any legislative changes it deems necessary for the
216 successful operation of the fund.

217 (i) The secretary may contract with a private organization to carry out some or all of the
218 agency's duties provided in this section.

219

220 SECTION 5. Chapter 23A of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking out section
221 10A and inserting the following section:-

222 Section 10A: Supply Mass/Buy Mass; MassMade

223 Section 10A. (a) In order for the commonwealth to execute on its responsibility of
224 facilitating expansion of the local economy, MOBD shall establish a program to be known as
225 Supply Mass/Buy Mass for the purpose of connecting local suppliers with local purchasers,

226 whether public or private, institutional, commercial or individual. In implementing said program,
227 MOBD shall:

228 (1) establish requirements for local suppliers to register as MassMade businesses with
229 Supply Mass/Buy Mass;

230 (2) design and implement a Supply Mass/Buy Mass interactive web portal through which
231 local suppliers can register as MassMade businesses and create MassMade business profiles with
232 industry-specific information;

233 (3) assemble a searchable database of MassMade businesses through the portal by
234 industry, raw materials produced or products or goods manufactured, and other identifying
235 characteristics, with specific search features independently tailored toward local institutional
236 purchasers, commercial purchasers, and individual purchasers;

237 (4) develop toolkits and training videos available through the portal to guide MassMade
238 businesses to better understand the needs and procurement processes of local institutional and
239 commercial purchasers;

240 (5) enable local institutional and commercial purchasers to issue requests for proposals
241 through the portal and MassMade businesses to respond to such requests through the portal;

242 (6) promote live networking events through the portal to connect MassMade businesses
243 with local institutional and commercial purchasers;

244 (7) determine those raw materials, products or goods needed by local institutional and
245 commercial purchasers currently purchased outside the commonwealth or from foreign
246 countries, especially raw materials, products or goods required for the first time; inquire whether

247 other local institutional or commercial purchasers are in need of such raw materials, products or
248 goods; assess whether any MassMade businesses are capable of producing or manufacturing the
249 needed raw materials, products or goods with additional capital or retooling;

250 (8) coordinate and connect the portal with the MassMakers Portal;

251 (9) identify other obstacles to conducting business in the commonwealth and advance
252 resources through the portal to address those obstacles to the extent possible;

253 (10) promote public-private partnerships;

254 (11) develop, evaluate and recommend policies, initiatives and incentives to prevent
255 consumer flight from local suppliers in the cities and towns of the Merrimack Valley and other
256 border municipalities to suppliers in New Hampshire or other tax advantaged states or from other
257 sources; and

258 (12) undertake any other activities necessary to implement the purposes of this section.

259 Dedicated effort shall be made to encourage diversity and advance equity based on race,
260 color, religious creed, national origin, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, genetic
261 information, ancestry, disability, and language in implementing Supply Mass/Buy Mass.

262 (b) MOBD may consult with and seek input from interested stakeholders and shall work
263 with entities including MassMade businesses, regional economic development organizations,
264 microbusiness and small business associations, chambers of commerce, the supplier diversity
265 office, the Massachusetts marketing partnership and the office of consumer affairs and business
266 regulations in order to collect and provide business and product information related to

267 MassMade businesses. All Supply Mass/Buy Mass information shall be readily accessible and
268 free to the public.

269 (c) MOBD shall hold as a separate fund and may expend such sums as may be
270 appropriated for Supply Mass/Buy Mass by the general court, and may accept gifts, donations,
271 grants or bequests or any federal funds for any of the purposes set forth in this section, which
272 shall be credited to the fund. All available money in the fund that is unexpended at the end of
273 each fiscal year shall not revert to the General Fund and shall be available for expenditure by
274 MOBD for Supply Mass/Buy Mass in the subsequent fiscal year.

275 (d) MOBD is hereby authorized to promulgate regulations to assure the timely and
276 effective implementation of this section.

277 SECTION 6. Chapter 23A of the 2020 Official Edition of the General Laws is hereby
278 amended after section 13 by inserting the following new section:-

279 131/2. Office of Massachusetts Main Streets

280 Within Office of Business Development, there shall be established an Office of
281 Massachusetts Main Streets. The Office of Massachusetts Main Streets shall serve as the
282 principal agency for promoting and protecting the downtown and commercial districts of the
283 commonwealth's cities and towns. The Office of Massachusetts Main Streets shall provide
284 informational, marketing, and technical assistance to federal, state and local Main Street groups
285 and coordinate federal, state and local Main Street efforts to further accomplish the goal of
286 promoting and protecting downtown and commercial districts of the Commonwealth.

287 (b)(1) The executive director of MMS shall be appointed by the governor, and serve at
288 the pleasure of the governor. The position of executive director of MMS shall be classified under
289 section 45 of chapter 30 and the executive director of MMS shall devote full time during
290 business hours to the duties of MMS.

291 (d) The executive director of MMS may, subject to appropriation and with the approval
292 of MOBD, appoint and may, with like approval, remove all such employees as may be necessary
293 to carry out the work of MMS. Unless otherwise provided by law, all such appointments and
294 removals shall be made under chapter 31. The executive director may, subject to appropriation
295 and the laws and regulations pertaining to the employment of consultants, employ such
296 consultants as the executive director may deem necessary.

297 (g) MMS may accept and solicit funds, including any gifts, donations, grants or bequests
298 or any federal funds for any of the purposes set forth in this section, which shall be credited to
299 the Mass Main Streets Trust Fund established pursuant to subsection (h).

300 (h)(1) There shall be a Mass Main Streets Trust Fund which shall be administered by
301 MOBD as custodian for MMS and held by MOBD separate and apart from its other funds. There
302 shall be credited to the fund such sums received pursuant to subsection (g) and such sums as may
303 be appropriated for MMS by the general court.

304 (2) All available money in the fund that is unexpended at the end of each fiscal year shall
305 not revert to the General Fund and shall be available for expenditure by MMS in the subsequent
306 fiscal year.

307 (3) MMS shall submit an annual report to MOBD, the clerks of the senate and house of
308 representatives and the joint committee on community development and small businesses not

309 later than December 31 on the cost-effectiveness of the fund. The report shall be made available
310 on the MMS website. The report shall include: (i) expenditures made by MMS from money out
311 of the fund to promote the revitalization of downtowns and commercial districts of the
312 commonwealth's cities and towns and to otherwise fulfill the mission of MMS pursuant to this
313 section; and (ii) expenditures made by MMS for administrative costs.

314 SECTION 7. Chapter 23A of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
315 section 66 the following section:-

316 Section 66A: Microbusiness and minority business strategy commission; members;
317 powers and duties; meetings; annual report

318 Section 66A. (a) There shall be a microbusiness and minority business strategy
319 commission within, but not subject to the supervision or control of, the executive office of
320 housing and economic development. The mission of the commission shall be to enhance the
321 economic vitality of the commonwealth's microbusinesses and minority businesses, recognizing
322 the fundamental role that microbusinesses and minority businesses play in the economy and the
323 contributions made by microbusinesses and minority businesses to the general welfare of the
324 commonwealth.

325 (b) The commission shall consist of the following 19 members: the secretary of housing
326 and economic development, ex officio, or a designee; the secretary of administration and finance,
327 ex officio, or a designee; the chair of the commission against discrimination, ex officio, or a
328 designee; the executive director of Massachusetts Main Streets, ex officio, or a designee; the
329 director of the supplier diversity office, ex officio, or a designee, and 14 persons appointed by
330 the governor, 2 of whom shall be from each of the 7 regions of the commonwealth: the western

331 region, the central region, the northeast region, the Merrimack Valley, the metro west region, the
332 Greater Boston region, and the southeast region. Of those 14 appointees, at least 3 shall be
333 microbusiness owners or representatives of microbusiness owners in underserved communities
334 or communities with a high percentage of low-income households, at least 3 shall be minority
335 business owners or representatives of minority business owners in underserved communities or
336 communities with a high percentage of low-income households, and at least 3 shall be founders
337 or organizers of platforms, pop-up markets, or other vendor collaboratives serving
338 microbusinesses organized for similar purposes or committed to similar mission outcomes,
339 and/or minority businesses organized for similar purposes or committed to similar mission
340 outcomes for advancing equity based on race, color, religious creed, national origin, sex, gender
341 identity, sexual orientation, genetic information, ancestry, disability, or language.. (c) Members
342 of the commission may serve a maximum of 3 consecutive 3-year terms. A vacancy occurring
343 on the commission shall be filled within 90 days by the original appointing authority. A person
344 appointed to fill a vacancy shall serve initially only for the balance of the unexpired term. The
345 commission shall annually elect from among its members a chair, a vice chair, and any other
346 officers it considers necessary. The members of the commission shall receive no compensation
347 for their services but shall be reimbursed for any usual and customary expenses incurred in the
348 performance of their duties. Members shall be considered special state employees for the
349 purposes of chapter 268A. Each member of the commission shall be a resident of the
350 commonwealth.

351 (d) The commission shall serve as a research body for issues critical to the welfare and
352 vitality of the commonwealth's microbusinesses and minority businesses and shall: (i) study,
353 review and report on the status of microbusinesses and minority businesses in the

354 commonwealth; (ii) advise the general court and the executive branch of the impact of existing
355 and proposed state laws, policies and regulations on the commonwealth's microbusinesses and
356 minority businesses; (iii) advance legislative and policy solutions that address the needs of the
357 commonwealth's microbusinesses and minority businesses; (iv) advocate to ensure that the
358 commonwealth's microbusinesses and minority businesses receive a fair share of state
359 investment; (v) work with lending institutions, insurance companies, and other private businesses
360 in the commonwealth to encourage formation of seed money and microcredit opportunities for
361 facilitating the starting up and upscaling of microbusinesses and minority businesses in their
362 efforts to obtain loan money and operating capital from private and public lenders; (vi) promote
363 collaboration among the commonwealth's microbusinesses and minority businesses to improve
364 efficiency in delivery of services and other cost efficiencies; and (vii) develop and support access
365 to state resources for the commonwealth's microbusinesses and minority businesses. The
366 executive office shall provide the commission with adequate office space and any research,
367 analysis or other staff support that the commission reasonably requires.

368 (e) The commission shall meet on a quarterly basis at the discretion of the chair. Meeting
369 locations shall rotate between the 7 regions of the commonwealth identified in subsection (b).
370 Meetings shall be open to the public pursuant to sections 18 to 25, inclusive, of chapter 30A.

371 (f) The commission may accept and solicit funds, including any gifts, donations, grants or
372 bequests or any federal funds for any of the purposes of this section. The funds shall be deposited
373 in a separate account with the state treasurer, shall be received by the state treasurer on behalf of
374 the commonwealth and shall be expended by the commission under the law.

375 (g) The commission shall annually, not later than June 2, report the results of its findings
376 and activities of the preceding year and its recommendations to the governor and to the clerks of
377 the senate and the house of representatives who shall forward the same to the joint committee on
378 economic development and emerging technologies.

379 (h) Notwithstanding any general or special law, regulation, policy or procedure to the
380 contrary, microbusinesses shall be exempt from the annual report fees imposed by the state
381 secretary's office, and minority businesses that qualify as microbusinesses shall be exempt from
382 the diversity certification and third-party certification application fees imposed by the supplier
383 diversity office. The state secretary is hereby authorized to promulgate regulations to assure the
384 timely and effective implementation of this subsection.

385 SECTION 8. Section 22A of chapter 40, as so appearing, is hereby amended by inserting,
386 in paragraph 1, line 28, after the phrase "improvements to the public realm" the following words:
387 "including district management activities and operations"

388 SECTION 9. Section 22C of said chapter 40, as so appearing, is hereby amended by
389 inserting, in line 11, after the phrase, "public transportation station accessibility improvements"
390 the following words: "district management activities and operations,".

391 SECTION 10. Chapter 66 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
392 section 5A, the following section:-

393 Section 5B. Limited liability entities and business and nonprofit corporations organized
394 or registered to do business in the Commonwealth, shall keep all local, state and federally issued
395 operating licenses in a binder that shall be made readily accessible to the public upon verbal
396 request during normal hours of operation.