

SENATE No. 01599

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Richard T. Moore

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 establishing the Commission on Government Accountability, Economy, and Efficiency.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Richard T. Moore</i>	<i>Worcester and Norfolk</i>
<i>Cory Atkins</i>	<i>14th Middlesex</i>
<i>Steven A. Baddour</i>	<i>First Essex</i>
<i>Carolyn C. Dykema</i>	<i>8th Middlesex</i>
<i>John V. Fernandes</i>	<i>10th Worcester</i>
<i>Michael R. Knapik</i>	<i>Second Hampden and Hampshire</i>
<i>Jason M. Lewis</i>	<i>31st Middlesex</i>
<i>Thomas M. Stanley</i>	<i>9th Middlesex</i>
<i>James E. Timilty</i>	<i>Bristol and Norfolk</i>

SENATE No. 01599

By Mr. Moore, petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1599) of Timilty, Stanley, Lewis and other members of the General Court for legislation to establish the Commission on Government Accountability, Economy, and Efficiency [Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight].

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Eleven

An Act establishing the Commission on Government Accountability, Economy, and Efficiency.

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. Establishment.

2 There is hereby established a special commission to investigate and study methods of improving
3 the accountability, economy and efficiency of the government of the Commonwealth and the
4 operation of its agencies, departments, instrumentalities, and political subdivisions, hereinafter
5 referred to as “the commission”.

6 SECTION 2. Purpose.

7 The purpose of the commission shall be to make recommendations to the Governor and the
8 General Court to promote economy, efficiency, and improved service in the transaction of the
9 public business in the various departments, agencies, instrumentalities and political subdivisions
10 in the executive, legislative and judicial branches of state and local government, and in making

11 the operation of all state departments, agencies, and instrumentalities, and local government and
12 all expenditures of public funds, more directly responsive to the needs of the Commonwealth and
13 its political subdivisions, by any or all of the following means:

14 (a) By adopting methods and procedures for reducing expenditures to the lowest
15 amount consistent with the efficient performance of essential services, activities and functions.

16 (b) By eliminating duplication and overlapping services, activities, and functions, and
17 time- consuming or wasteful practices.

18 (c) By consolidating services, activities, and functions of a similar nature.

19 (d) By abolishing services, activities, and functions not necessary to the efficient
20 conduct of state or local government.

21 (e) By the elimination of unnecessary departments and agencies, the creation of
22 necessary new departments and agencies, the reorganization of existing departments and
23 agencies, and the transfer of functions and responsibilities among departments and agencies.

24 (f) By defining or redefining duties and responsibilities of state or local officers.

25 (g) By revising present provisions for continuing or permanent appropriations of state
26 funds or bond authorizations, for whatever purpose, by eliminating any such existing provisions
27 and by adopting new provisions.

28 (h) By establishing means for performance measurement and methods of reporting
29 such measurement.

30 (i) Reorganizing all aspects of career public service including, but not limited to,
31 methods of recruitment and retention of public employees; training and re-training of public
32 employees; job classification, salaries and benefits of public employees; discipline and
33 termination of public employees, clarifying the state responsibilities and functions that are best
34 served by regular public employees and those best served by contract employees; and
35 encouraging and facilitating opportunities for private sector and non-profit sector employees to
36 work in state or local government for limited periods of time.

37 (j) By analyzing and evaluating all state and local contracts with private vendors for
38 the purpose of confirming that all contracted approaches to the delivery of goods and services are
39 accountable, economical, and efficient.

40 (k) To review state requirements for contracting for goods and services and for the
41 retention of professional services to determine the most effective means of determining the most
42 qualified vendor, including but not limited to, a review of the method by which state and local
43 agencies, state authorities, boards and commissions retain legal counsel, accounting,
44 architectural and engineering services.

45 SECTION 3. Membership.

46 The commission shall be comprised of the following members, each of whom shall serve at the
47 pleasure of the appointing authority:

48 (a) Seven members appointed by the Governor. Not more than four of such members
49 shall be registered voters in the same political party, and none shall hold public office in the
50 executive branch of the state government. Two of the seven shall have expertise in the
51 management of municipal government and one shall have expertise in managing a major not for

52 profit agency. Appointments shall include, but not be limited to, Massachusetts residents in the
53 fields of business and government management, accounting, labor relations, finance, human
54 relations or academic fields including, but not limited to, deans of schools of business or public
55 administration.

56 (b) Three members of the Massachusetts Senate who shall be the Senate Chair of Ways
57 and Means, the Chair of the Senate Committee on Post Audit and Oversight, and one member
58 designated by the Senate Minority Leader.

59 (c) Three members of the Massachusetts House of Representatives who shall be the
60 House Chair of Ways and Means, the Chair of the House Committee on Post Audit and
61 Oversight, and one member designated by the House Minority Leader.

62 (d) The Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House, who shall
63 jointly designate the chair or co-chairs of the Special Commission, shall each serve on the Task
64 Force, ex-officio.

65 (e) The Auditor of the Commonwealth and the Inspector General of the
66 Commonwealth, ex-officio.

67 SECTION 4. Meetings and Reports.

68 The Commission shall meet not less than quarterly and shall have the authority, subject
69 to the approval of the Secretary of Administration and Finance, to request staff support and
70 research from state agencies to carry out its responsibilities. The Commission may seek
71 assistance from other organizations or individuals on a pro bono basis. The Commission shall
72 file annual reports with the Clerk of the Senate and the Clerk of the House of Representatives

73 and shall make a final report not later than June 30, 2012 unless revived and continued for a
74 longer period of time by the General Court. The Commission may make interim reports as
75 appropriate in order to address the serious fiscal problems facing the Commonwealth in the next
76 few years.

77 In particular, the Commission shall examine the feasibility of developing one or more
78 pilot projects for the development and use of the Baldrige National Quality Program criteria by
79 selected agencies to improve their capabilities and results, as well as to increase their
80 sustainability. The objective of each said Baldrige Pilot Project is to help the participating
81 agency to learn about and implement a framework of robust systems and processes that will
82 enable them to withstand harsh budget conditions and continue to offer essential public services
83 in a cost-effective manner. A pilot project shall demonstrate the business case for improved
84 results in service delivery using the Baldrige Criteria as set forth by the National Institute of
85 Standards and Technology (NIST), including alignment of agency goals with key systems and
86 processes such as strategic planning, training of managers and staff in the principles of the
87 criteria, attention to stakeholder satisfaction, complaint management and resolution, process
88 management, succession planning, learning and development, and evaluation of programs.