



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
House of Representatives
State House, Boston 02133-1054

TODD M. SMOLA
REPRESENTATIVE
1ST HAMPDEN DISTRICT

BRIMFIELD • HOLLAND • PALMER
STURBRIDGE • WALES • WARE • WARREN

STATE HOUSE, ROOM 124
TEL. (617) 722-2100
FAX: (617) 722-2390
www.reptoddsmla.org
Todd.Smola@mahouse.gov
Conor.Welch@mahouse.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 18, 2022

Contact: Conor Welch
617-722-2100

Rep. Smola supports legislation establishing a Women's Rights History Trail program in Massachusetts

BOSTON – Representative Todd M. Smola (R-Warren, Ranking Member, Committee on Ways & Means) recently supported legislation to establish a Women's Rights History Trail program to highlight the struggle for women's rights in Massachusetts.

House Bill 4555 calls upon the Secretary of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) and the Executive Director of the Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism (MOTT) to develop and implement a program "designating properties and sites that are historically and thematically associated with the struggle for women's rights and women's suffrage" while also "promoting education and awareness of the struggle for women's rights in the commonwealth." The bill was engrossed by the House of Representatives on a vote of 154-0 on March 17.

According to Representative Smola, House Bill 4555 requires the Secretary of MassDOT and the Executive Director of MOTT to produce and disseminate educational materials related to the history trail. It also directs MOTT to develop vacation itineraries based on locations that are connected to the historical theme of the program, including local entertainment venues, restaurants, farms and lodging.

House Bill 4555 also establishes a 13-member task force to solicit public input and make recommendations by January 1, 2023 regarding appropriate sites, properties and attractions to include in the program, with a focus on sites that are "historically and thematically associated with the struggle for women's rights and women's suffrage, are geographically diverse, and commemorate individuals who reflect racial, ethnic, cultural and economic diversity." Representative Smola said the task force will include the Secretary of MassDOT; the Executive Director of MOTT; eight legislators, including the chairs of the Joint Committee on

Travel and Tourism and the chairs of the Massachusetts Caucus of Women Legislators; the Executive Director of the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women and a representative selected by the organization; and a representative of the Massachusetts Historical Society.

House Bill 4555 now heads to the Senate for its consideration. For additional information please contact Representative Smola at Todd.Smola@mahouse.gov or (617)722-2100.

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