



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
September 19, 2019

Contact: Conor Welch
617-722-2100

Representative Smola supports proposal to create a Women's Rights History Trail

BOSTON – Representative Todd M. Smola (R-Warren, Ranking Member, Committee on Ways & Means), is supporting efforts to establish a Women's Rights History Trail to promote education and awareness of the struggle for women's rights in Massachusetts.

House Bill 4076, which passed the House of Representatives on a vote of 156-0 on September 18, directs the Secretary of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation and the Executive Director of the Office of Travel and Tourism to develop a history trail that will include "properties and sites that are historically and thematically associated with the struggle for women's rights and women's suffrage."

To facilitate this process, House Bill 4076 calls for the creation of a 13-member task force that will conduct research and solicit public input on what attractions to include on the history trail. In making its recommendations, the task force will identify sites that are geographically diverse while also seeking to "commemorate individuals who reflect racial, ethnic, cultural and economic diversity."

The task force will submit its findings and recommendations to the House of Representatives and the Senate by July 31, 2020.

To promote the trail program, the bill calls for the distribution of educational materials, including handbooks, maps and interpretive guides. The Office of Travel and Tourism will also develop vacation itineraries for the trail program that will include surrounding attractions, restaurants and exhibits tied in to the historical theme of the trail.

Filed by State Representatives Hannah Kane (R-Shrewsbury), Carolyn Dykema (D-Holliston) and Danielle Gregoire (D-Marlborough), House Bill 4076 enjoys strong bi-partisan and bi-cameral support, with 73 additional co-sponsors in the House and the Senate. A similar bill was filed during the 2017-2018 legislative session by the late Representative Gail Cariddi (D-North Adams).

The bill now heads to the Senate for further action. For additional information please contact Representative Smola at Todd.Smola@mahouse.gov or (617)722-2100.

###