

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 01155**

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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PRESENTED BY:

*George N. Peterson, Jr.*

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*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 renewable energy investment commission.

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PETITION OF:

NAME:

*George N. Peterson, Jr.*

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

*9th Worcester*

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 01155

By Mr. Peterson of Grafton, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1155) of George N. Peterson, Jr. for legislation establishing a special renewable energy investment commission. Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture.

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Eleven

An Act establishing renewable energy investment commission.

*Whereas*, the deferred operation of this act would tend to defeat its purpose, which is forthwith to create jobs, provide economic relief to the people of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and increase renewable electricity generation, and conserve and protect the natural resources of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, therefore, it is hereby declared to be an emergency law, necessary for the immediate preservation of the public convenience.

□

*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 shall be entitled the “Renewable Energy Investment Act”, and shall be
- 2 construed in a manner to achieve its public purposes, which are to encourage the development of
- 3 clean, renewable, electric generating plants and ancillary facilities powered by clean technology,
- 4 ensure that such facilities are sited in appropriate locations based on clear, predictable, and
- 5 protective environmental, cultural and historic resource standards.

6 SECTION 2. There is hereby established a special renewable energy investment commission to  
7 consist of 2 members of the senate, 1 of whom shall be the senate chair for the joint committee  
8 on telecommunication and energy who shall serve as co-chair, and 1 of whom shall be appointed  
9 by the senate minority leader; 2 members of the house of representatives, 1 of whom shall be the  
10 house chair for the joint committee on telecommunication and energy who shall serve as co-  
11 chair, and 1 of whom shall be appointed by the house minority leader; 3 persons to be appointed  
12 by the governor, 1 of whom shall be a executive of an electric or distribution company, and 1 of  
13 whom shall be a representative of a consumer advocacy organization, and 1 of whom shall be  
14 nationally recognized renewable energy policy and financing professional based in the  
15 Commonwealth; and the commissioner of energy resources or a designee; the secretary of energy  
16 and environmental affairs or a designee, a representative of the Associated Industries of  
17 Massachusetts, a representative of the Massachusetts Competitive Partnership who shall serve as  
18 co-chair, a representative of Environment Northeast, a representative of the Massachusetts Clean  
19 Energy Center, a representative of the New England Independent System Operator, and a  
20 representative of the National Federation of Independent Businesses, for the purpose of making  
21 an investigation and study relative to the impact of chapter 164 of the acts of 1997 (an act  
22 relative to the restructuring of the electric utility industry in the commonwealth), chapter 114 of  
23 the acts of 2008 (the oceans act of 2008), chapter 169 of the acts of 2008 (an act relative to green  
24 communities) chapter 206 of the acts of 2008 (the clean energy biofuels act), chapter 298 of the  
25 acts of 2008 (the global warming solutions act), and Chapter 307 of the acts of 2008 (the green  
26 jobs act), collectively hereinafter referred to as “the energy acts,” and any and all substantive and  
27 technical amendments to the energy acts, with regard to the energy acts collective and respective  
28 impact on residential and commercial rates through 2020, taking into account renewable energy

29 initiatives existing in the states that geographically border the Commonwealth, including the cost  
30 of transmission required to transport renewable energy in order to meet the Commonwealth's  
31 renewable portfolio standard, and taking into account benefits including but not limited to the  
32 avoidance or reduction of greenhouse gases and other pollutants, energy reliability, security and  
33 diversification, and detriments including but not limited to the impact on ecologically sensitive  
34 areas, large unfragmented habitat blocks, priority or estimated habitats for plant and animal  
35 species listed pursuant to chapter 131A, populations of bird and bat species that are considered  
36 by the department of fish and game as being vulnerable to impacts from the operation of wind  
37 turbines, historic, cultural, or scenic or recreational areas of special federal or state significance,  
38 noise and public safety. The commission should illustrate and analyze the rate payer impact of  
39 introducing existing, large-scale hydro-electricity, generated within and outside the  
40 Commonwealth's borders, as a renewable resource qualified to meet the class 1 renewable  
41 portfolio standard requirement in the Commonwealth. The commission shall report the results of  
42 its investigation and study and its recommendations, if any, together with a detailed description  
43 and chart of the residential and commercial rate impact of acquiring electricity for renewable  
44 resources, including the relative impact on residential and commercial electricity and tax rates of  
45 state and federal renewable energy funding, grants and other incentive programs, including net  
46 metering relative to each service territory within the Commonwealth, and short and long term  
47 projections through 2020 of private sector investment in renewable energy generation facilities in  
48 the Commonwealth, along with drafts of legislation necessary to carry its recommendations into  
49 effect by filing the same with the clerks of the senate and the house of representatives on or  
50 before September 1, 2011. Members of the commission shall not receive compensation for their  
51 services but may receive reimbursement for the reasonable expenses incurred in carrying out

52 their responsibilities as members of the commission. The commission shall convene no later than  
53 30 days after the effective date of this act.