

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 01757**

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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PRESENTED BY:

*Demetrius J. Atsalis*

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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 concerning zoning.

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PETITION OF:

NAME:

*Demetrius J. Atsalis*

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

*2nd Barnstable*

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 01757

By Mr. Demetrius J. Atsalis of Barnstable, petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 01757) of Demetrius J. Atsalis for legislation to prohibit the siting of wind turbines within 3,000 feet of a residence or residentially zoned property. Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy.

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Eleven

An Act concerning zoning.

*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 3 of Chapter 40A of the General laws, as appearing in the 2008 Official Edition, is
- 2 hereby amended by inserting the after the words "the city and town enacting such ordinance and
- 3 by-law" the following:-
- 4 Section 1. The legislature finds and declares that industrial wind turbines can be over 400 feet
- 5 tall; that as a result of their size, these machines have the potential to reduce property values for
- 6 nearby residents unless they are sited at appropriate distances from residential areas; that recent
- 7 studies have further indicated that the noise and vibration stemming from the operation of large
- 8 scale industrial wind turbines may cause nearby residents to suffer from a health condition
- 9 known as "wind turbine syndrome" which may result in sleep disturbance, headaches, ringing of
- 10 the ears, ear pressure, dizziness, vertigo, nausea, visual blurring, racing heart beat, irritability,
- 11 problems with memory, and concentration, and panic episodes accompanied by internal

12 pulsation; that medical, noise and acoustic experts have indicated that “wind turbine syndrome”  
13 can be avoided if industrial wind turbines are sited an appropriate distance from residential  
14 property. The Legislature therefore finds that, in order to protect the public health and welfare,  
15 and to protect residents from unnecessary reductions in property values, it is both reasonable and  
16 necessary to prohibit the siting of industrial wind turbines in or near residential areas.

17 Section 2. No wind turbine may be erected or installed in the Commonwealth at a site that is  
18 closer than 3,000 feet from any residence or residentially zoned property. No state regional or  
19 municipal entity may approve or provide funding for any plan, proposal, or permit application  
20 for a wind turbine that will be erected or installed at a site closer than 3,000 feet from any  
21 residence or residentially zoned property. The provisions of this section shall apply only to wind  
22 turbines erected or installed subsequent to the effective date of this act.