

HOUSE No. 02029

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Martha M. Walz and

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 a Charles River parkways and parklands commission .

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Martha M. Walz</i>	<i>8th Suffolk</i>
<i>Thomas M. Stanley</i>	<i>9th Middlesex</i>
<i>Jason M. Lewis</i>	<i>31st Middlesex</i>
<i>Denise Provost</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>
<i>Kay Khan</i>	<i>11th Middlesex</i>
<i>Jonathan Hecht</i>	<i>29th Middlesex</i>
<i>Alice K. Wolf</i>	<i>25th Middlesex</i>
<i>William N. Brownsberger</i>	<i>24th Middlesex</i>
<i>Sal N. DiDomenico</i>	<i>Middlesex, Suffolk, and Essex</i>

HOUSE No. 02029

By Representatives Ms. Walz of Boston and Mr. Hecht, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2029) of Khan and others for the establishment of a Charles River parkways and parklands commission (including members of the General Court) to make recommendations for the preservation and increased use of the parklands along the Charles River Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Eleven

An Act establishing a Charles River parkways and parklands commission .

Whereas, the deferred operation of this act would tend to defeat its purpose, which is forthwith to establish a commission for the increased use of parklands on the Charles River, 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 Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, there shall be a Charles River
2 Parkway and Parklands Commission which shall consist of: two members of the senate whose
3 districts include a parkway located adjacent to the Charles River west of the Harbor Dam and
4 east of the Galen Street Bridge who shall be appointed by the president of the Senate and one of
5 whom shall be named by the president of the Senate as co-chair of the commission, two

6 members of the House of Representatives whose districts include a parkway adjacent to the
7 Charles River west of the Harbor Dam and east of the Galen Street Bridge who shall be
8 appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives and one of whom shall be named by
9 the speaker of the House of Representatives as co-chair of the commission, the commissioner of
10 the department of conservation and recreation, the parks commissioner of the city of Boston, a
11 representative from the city of Cambridge appointed by the Cambridge City Manager, a
12 representative from the town of Watertown appointed by the Watertown Town Manager, a
13 representative of the Charles River Conservancy, a representative of the Livable Streets Alliance,
14 a representative of WalkBoston, a faculty member of the Graduate School of Design at Harvard
15 University named by the dean of the school, and a faculty member of the Massachusetts Institute
16 of Technology named by the president of the school. All members shall serve without
17 compensation. The commission may consult individuals and entities outside of its membership
18 for research, advice, support and other functions necessary and appropriate to accomplish the
19 commission's objectives. Staff of the department of conservation and recreation and the
20 department of transportation shall be made available to assist the commission with its work.

21 The commission shall have as its goals the preservation for recreation and increased use
22 of the parklands along the Charles River by non-vehicular users. The commission shall make an
23 investigation and study relative to the parkways located adjacent to the Charles River west of the
24 Harbor Dam and east of the Galen Street Bridge. Said investigation and study shall include all
25 intersections and all streets that intersect the parkways for a half mile in each direction from the
26 intersection with the parkway. The commission shall study and report on (i) whether traffic on
27 the parkways can be directed to regional arteries, including but not limited to the Massachusetts
28 Turnpike, Route 128 and Route 93; (ii) whether vehicle travel lanes on parkways can be

29 narrowed or eliminated, and, if so, where such lanes can be narrowed or eliminated; (iii) whether
30 parkland alongside the parkways can be enlarged, and, if so, where such enlargement could
31 occur; (iv) whether walking and bicycle facilities can be improved or added and, if so, where
32 such improvements or additions could occur, and the maintenance and capital costs associated
33 therewith; (v) whether and where connections across and along the river for non-vehicular
34 parkland users can be make easier and safer; (vi) how to improve the ease and safety of access to
35 the parklands from the adjacent neighborhoods; and (vii) the possible maintenance savings from
36 reducing road surfaces from active use by cars. The commission shall study how traffic can be
37 directed away from the parkways in order to strengthen their intended use of providing access to
38 the parklands and the riverfront.

39 In completing its report, the commission shall reference and incorporate the goals of the
40 Historic Parkways Initiative, the masterplan for the Charles River Basin completed by the
41 Metropolitan District Commission, the Massachusetts Healthy Transportation Compact and the
42 Pathway study.

43 The commission shall submit a report of its findings together with legislation, if any, to
44 the clerks of the House of Representative and the Senate who shall forward the same to the
45 chairs of the joint committee on environment, natural resources and agriculture no later than
46 November 30, 2012.