

HOUSE No. 2461

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Jonathan Hecht

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 adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to the public health benefits of expanding access to drinking water in public places.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Jonathan Hecht</i>	<i>29th Middlesex</i>
<i>Ruth B. Balsler</i>	<i>12th Middlesex</i>
<i>James M. Cantwell</i>	<i>4th Plymouth</i>
<i>Mike Connolly</i>	<i>26th Middlesex</i>
<i>Michelle M. DuBois</i>	<i>10th Plymouth</i>
<i>Carolyn C. Dykema</i>	<i>8th Middlesex</i>
<i>Kenneth I. Gordon</i>	<i>21st Middlesex</i>
<i>Kay Khan</i>	<i>11th Middlesex</i>
<i>Jason M. Lewis</i>	<i>Fifth Middlesex</i>
<i>Paul McMurtry</i>	<i>11th Norfolk</i>
<i>Frank A. Moran</i>	<i>17th Essex</i>

HOUSE No. 2461

By Mr. Hecht of Watertown, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2461) of Jonathan Hecht and others for an investigation by a special commission relative to increasing access to drinking water in public places. Public Health.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninetieth General Court
(2017-2018)**

An Act relative to the public health benefits of expanding access to drinking water in public places.

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. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, there shall be
2 established a Special Commission on Access to Drinking Water in Public Places. The
3 Commission shall evaluate the public health benefits of and options for expanding access to
4 drinking water in public places, including but not limited to parks, playgrounds, schools,
5 libraries, other public buildings, bicycle and pedestrian paths, stadiums, arenas, and commercial,
6 cultural, and other properties generally open to the public.

7 SECTION 2. The Commission shall consist of 13 members, 1 of whom shall be the
8 commissioner of public health or a designee, who shall serve as chair, 1 of whom shall be the
9 commissioner of elementary and secondary education or a designee, 1 of whom shall be the
10 executive director of the Massachusetts School Building Authority or a designee, 1 of whom
11 shall be the secretary of transportation or a designee, 1 of whom shall be the commissioner of
12 environmental protection or a designee, 1 of whom shall be the commissioner of conservation

13 and recreation or a designee, 1 of whom shall be the administrator of the Board of Building
14 Regulations and Standards or a designee, 1 of whom shall be the executive director of the
15 Massachusetts Water Resources Authority or a designee, 1 of whom shall be the president of the
16 Massachusetts Water Works Association or a designee, 1 of whom shall be the executive director
17 of the Massachusetts Municipal Association or a designee, 1 of whom shall be a representative of
18 a public health advocacy organization, 1 of whom shall be a representative of a water access
19 advocacy organization, and 1 of whom shall be the director of the Prevention Research Center on
20 Nutrition and Physical Activity at Harvard University School of Public Health or a designee.

21 SECTION 3. The Commission shall first convene within 60 days of the effective date of
22 this Act, and not less than bi-monthly thereafter, and shall file a report with the Joint Committee
23 on Public Health not later than 180 days after first convening. The report shall (a) present
24 current scientific evidence on the health and other benefits of adequate water consumption,
25 including but not limited to consumption by school-age children; (b) present currently available
26 data on water consumption among Massachusetts residents by age, place of residence, gender,
27 race, income, and other demographic factors; (c) evaluate current laws, regulations, and policies
28 regarding access to drinking water in public places in Massachusetts; (d) evaluate current
29 obstacles to access to drinking water in public places in Massachusetts; and (e) make
30 recommendations for changes to policies, regulations, and legislation in order to expand access
31 to drinking water in public places in Massachusetts. The commission shall be empowered to
32 hold regular public meetings, fact-finding hearings and other public forums as it considers
33 necessary. Members shall not receive compensation for their services.