

HOUSE No. 2874

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Natalie M. Higgins and Andres X. Vargas

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 increasing net-zero homes in Gateway Cities.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Natalie M. Higgins</i>	<i>4th Worcester</i>
<i>Andres X. Vargas</i>	<i>3rd Essex</i>
<i>Rebecca L. Rausch</i>	<i>Norfolk, Bristol and Middlesex</i>
<i>Steven Ultrino</i>	<i>33rd Middlesex</i>
<i>Frank A. Moran</i>	<i>17th Essex</i>
<i>Dylan A. Fernandes</i>	<i>Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket</i>
<i>Mary S. Keefe</i>	<i>15th Worcester</i>
<i>Carolyn C. Dykema</i>	<i>8th Middlesex</i>
<i>Jack Patrick Lewis</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>
<i>Ruth B. Balser</i>	<i>12th Middlesex</i>
<i>Christina A. Minicucci</i>	<i>14th Essex</i>
<i>Mike Connolly</i>	<i>26th Middlesex</i>
<i>Stephan Hay</i>	<i>3rd Worcester</i>
<i>Adrian C. Madaro</i>	<i>1st Suffolk</i>
<i>David M. Rogers</i>	<i>24th Middlesex</i>
<i>Daniel M. Donahue</i>	<i>16th Worcester</i>
<i>Carmine Lawrence Gentile</i>	<i>13th Middlesex</i>
<i>Daniel J. Hunt</i>	<i>13th Suffolk</i>

<i>Denise Provost</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>
<i>Jennifer E. Benson</i>	<i>37th Middlesex</i>
<i>Alice Hanlon Peisch</i>	<i>14th Norfolk</i>
<i>Jonathan Hecht</i>	<i>29th Middlesex</i>
<i>Bruce E. Tarr</i>	<i>First Essex and Middlesex</i>
<i>Tami L. Gouveia</i>	<i>14th Middlesex</i>
<i>Marjorie C. Decker</i>	<i>25th Middlesex</i>
<i>Mindy Domb</i>	<i>3rd Hampshire</i>
<i>James K. Hawkins</i>	<i>2nd Bristol</i>
<i>Carlos Gonzalez</i>	<i>10th Hampden</i>
<i>Sheila C. Harrington</i>	<i>1st Middlesex</i>

HOUSE No. 2874

By Representatives Higgins of Leominster and Vargas of Haverhill, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2874) of Natalie M. Higgins and others for legislation to study incentives for certain low income homeowners and renters to reduce their energy consumption and greenhouse gas pollution. Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court
(2019-2020)**

An Act relative to increasing net-zero homes in Gateway Cities.

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. For the purposes of this section “low income households” shall mean as
2 defined by the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development as families that do not
3 exceed 80 percent of the of the median household income for the area; and “net zero” on a
4 household basis shall mean households whose occupants emit no greenhouse gas emissions on
5 an annual basis from their home, their transportation mode, their electricity supply for their home
6 (and, as needed, to charge their transportation mode), and their solid waste.

7 The department of energy resources, in consultation with Massachusetts clean energy
8 center, and the department of housing and community development, shall conduct a year long
9 study of existing incentives for low income homeowners and renters to reduce their energy
10 consumption and greenhouse gas pollution, including but not limited to the following areas: 1)
11 building energy efficiency, including renewable heating and cooling technologies, 2) renewable
12 energy supply on a household basis including but not limited to community shared solar, solar

13 farms, rooftop solar, community choice aggregation, and other community wide clean energy
14 programs, 3) solid waste, and 4) transportation in order to achieve household net zero status. The
15 purpose of this study is to identify existing resources, programs, and gaps that exist in assisting
16 households to achieving net zero for low income households and renters as well as viable
17 mechanisms that can be used to tie together the existing incentives and identify ways to fill the
18 gaps. The department of energy resources shall submit a report on said study to the joint
19 committees on telecommunications, utilities and energy and file a copy thereof with the clerk of
20 the house representatives and the clerk of the senate, with the intent of informing future law
21 making as well guiding the implementation of the pilot program in section 2.

22 SECTION 2. Following the one year study, in the subsequent 2 years the department of
23 energy resources, in consultation with Massachusetts clean energy center, and department of
24 housing and community development shall conduct not less than two pilot projects that will
25 enroll a minimum of 150 low income households, homeowners and renters, that reside in at least
26 3 gateway communities as defined in section 3A of chapter 23A. These pilot projects shall
27 retrofit existing single-family and multi-family housing to be net zero energy buildings,
28 including the following improvements: 1) building energy efficiency, including renewable
29 heating and cooling technologies, and shall provide access for low income families to 2)
30 renewable electric supply, 3) low impact solid waste solutions , and 4) transportation; including
31 measures such as solar photovoltaic panels, air-source or ground-source heat pumps,
32 weatherization, electric vehicles, electric vehicle infrastructure, public transit, composting,
33 recycling, energy storage, and efficient appliances. Following the completion of the pilot
34 projects, the department of energy resources shall file a report with the clerk of the house of

- 35 representatives and the clerk of the senate including recommendations to expand the scope of
- 36 similar programs to include all low income households across the commonwealth.