

HOUSE No. 2883

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Bradley H. Jones, Jr.

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 disaster preparedness.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Bradley H. Jones, Jr.</i>	<i>20th Middlesex</i>
<i>Bradford Hill</i>	<i>4th Essex</i>
<i>Elizabeth A. Poirier</i>	<i>14th Bristol</i>
<i>Susan Williams Gifford</i>	<i>2nd Plymouth</i>
<i>Paul K. Frost</i>	<i>7th Worcester</i>
<i>Todd M. Smola</i>	<i>1st Hampden</i>
<i>Carmine Lawrence Gentile</i>	<i>13th Middlesex</i>
<i>Randy Hunt</i>	<i>5th Barnstable</i>
<i>Angelo L. D'Emilia</i>	<i>8th Plymouth</i>
<i>Steven S. Howitt</i>	<i>4th Bristol</i>
<i>Kimberly N. Ferguson</i>	<i>1st Worcester</i>
<i>Donald H. Wong</i>	<i>9th Essex</i>
<i>Alyson M. Sullivan</i>	<i>7th Plymouth</i>
<i>Michael J. Soter</i>	<i>8th Worcester</i>
<i>James M. Kelcourse</i>	<i>1st Essex</i>
<i>Hannah Kane</i>	<i>11th Worcester</i>
<i>Bruce E. Tarr</i>	<i>First Essex and Middlesex</i>

HOUSE No. 2883

By Mr. Jones of North Reading, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2883) of Bradley H. Jones, Jr. and others for an investigation by a special commission relative to deficiencies of emergency response plans for electric and gas utility providers. Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to disaster preparedness.

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. Chapter 164 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2016 Official Edition,
2 is hereby amended by adding the following section:-

3 SECTION X. There is hereby established a special commission to investigate, study and
4 identify any deficiencies of an emergency response plans for each electric and gas utility
5 provider which conducts business in the Commonwealth. Said commission shall also provide
6 each utility company recommendations of ways to improve such plans to ensure the health and
7 safety of the residents of the Commonwealth.

8 The commission shall consist of the commissioner of the department of public utilities, or
9 a designee, who shall serve as chair; 1 person to be appointed by the president of the senate, who
10 shall be a representative of a metropolitan planning organization; 1 person to be appointed by the
11 minority leader of the senate, who shall be a representative of the Utility Contractors’

12 Association of New England ; 1 person to be appointed by the speaker of the house, who shall be
13 a member of the American Council of Engineering Companies of Massachusetts; 1 person to be
14 appointed by the minority leader of the house of representatives, who shall be a representative of
15 the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency; and 6 people to be appointed by the
16 governor, 2 of whom shall be representatives of the department of public safety, 2 of whom shall
17 be representatives of an electric utility, and 2 of whom shall be representatives of a gas utility,
18 with expertise in the planning of gas construction projects.

19 The commission shall report its findings and recommendations to the general court and
20 each utility company studied, together with drafts of legislation necessary to carry out said
21 recommendations into effect by filing the same with the clerk of the senate and the clerk of the
22 house of representatives on or before March 1, 2020, or 1 year after the effective date of this act.

23 The members of the commission shall be appointed within 60 days after the effective date
24 of this act and shall serve until the completion of the investigation and study.