

HOUSE No. 2930

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Tommy Vitolo

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 sparking the modernization of state heat systems.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Tommy Vitolo</i>	<i>15th Norfolk</i>
<i>Harriette L. Chandler</i>	<i>First Worcester</i>
<i>Kevin G. Honan</i>	<i>17th Suffolk</i>
<i>Ruth B. Balsler</i>	<i>12th Middlesex</i>
<i>Bradley H. Jones, Jr.</i>	<i>20th Middlesex</i>
<i>Carolyn C. Dykema</i>	<i>8th Middlesex</i>
<i>Thomas M. Stanley</i>	<i>9th Middlesex</i>
<i>Kay Khan</i>	<i>11th Middlesex</i>
<i>Steven Ultrino</i>	<i>33rd Middlesex</i>
<i>Jennifer E. Benson</i>	<i>37th Middlesex</i>
<i>Dylan A. Fernandes</i>	<i>Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket</i>
<i>Natalie M. Higgins</i>	<i>4th Worcester</i>
<i>Mike Connolly</i>	<i>26th Middlesex</i>
<i>Tricia Farley-Bouvier</i>	<i>3rd Berkshire</i>
<i>Adrian C. Madaro</i>	<i>1st Suffolk</i>
<i>Denise Provost</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>
<i>Stephan Hay</i>	<i>3rd Worcester</i>
<i>Mindy Domb</i>	<i>3rd Hampshire</i>

<i>Daniel M. Donahue</i>	<i>16th Worcester</i>
<i>Maria Duaine Robinson</i>	<i>6th Middlesex</i>
<i>Edward F. Coppinger</i>	<i>10th Suffolk</i>
<i>Mary S. Keefe</i>	<i>15th Worcester</i>
<i>Carmine Lawrence Gentile</i>	<i>13th Middlesex</i>
<i>Michelle L. Ciccolo</i>	<i>15th Middlesex</i>
<i>David M. Rogers</i>	<i>24th Middlesex</i>
<i>Christina A. Minicucci</i>	<i>14th Essex</i>
<i>Jonathan Hecht</i>	<i>29th Middlesex</i>
<i>Daniel J. Hunt</i>	<i>13th Suffolk</i>
<i>Rebecca L. Rausch</i>	<i>Norfolk, Bristol and Middlesex</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>
<i>Tami L. Gouveia</i>	<i>14th Middlesex</i>
<i>James K. Hawkins</i>	<i>2nd Bristol</i>
<i>Jack Patrick Lewis</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>
<i>David Biele</i>	<i>4th Suffolk</i>
<i>Jon Santiago</i>	<i>9th Suffolk</i>
<i>Michael D. Brady</i>	<i>Second Plymouth and Bristol</i>
<i>Carlos Gonzalez</i>	<i>10th Hampden</i>

HOUSE No. 2930

By Mr. Vitolo of Brookline, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2930) of Tommy Vitolo and others relative to conversion of fossil fuel heating customers to heat pumps, solar thermal, or other renewable or low greenhouse gas emissions heating technologies. Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act sparking the modernization of state heat systems.

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: The Massachusetts clean energy technology center shall administer a Heat
2 Pump Market Development program to fund and offer training programs in the commonwealth,
3 including but not limited to heating oil dealers, in order to expand markets for space and water
4 heating using efficient heat pump technology. The Massachusetts clean energy technology center
5 may draw upon the Massachusetts Renewable Energy Trust Fund for this purpose, provided that
6 sufficient funds are available, and may cease to offer such program after January 1, 2026.

7 SECTION 2: Chapter 164 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2016 Official Edition,
8 is hereby amended by inserting after section 94I, the following sections:-

9 Section 94J:

10 (a) Any base rate proceeding conducted by the department under section 94 for electric
11 companies or gas companies must include full decoupling, as specified in D.P.U. 07-50-A. The

12 department shall consider the impact of decoupling on the gas or electric company's return on
13 equity and make any necessary adjustments thereto.

14 (b) In any base rate proceeding commencing on or after July 31, 2020, the department
15 may not approve a decoupling mechanism for gas companies based on a revenue per customer
16 approach, or any other method that disincentivizes conversion of fossil fuel heating customers to
17 heat pumps, solar thermal, or other renewable or low greenhouse gas emissions heating
18 technologies.

19 Section 94K:

20 (a) In any base rate proceeding conducted by the department under section 94 for gas
21 companies, commencing on or after July 31, 2020, the department shall require the full
22 depreciation and cost recovery of any new gas distribution expansions by no later than December
23 31, 2040.

24 (b) In any base rate proceeding conducted by the department under section 94 for gas
25 companies, commencing on or after July 31, 2020, before granting recovery for any new gas
26 distribution expansions the department shall require a showing that all new gas customers first
27 obtained all weatherization, air sealing, and duct sealing work recommended by the energy
28 efficiency programs established in Chapter 25 in an audit or new construction evaluation
29 performed within previous last three years.

30 SECTION 3. Section 29 of chapter 7C of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby
31 amended by striking out subsection (b), and inserting in place thereof the following subsection:-

32 (b) The division of capital asset management and maintenance or the state agency
33 initiating the construction or renovation of a facility as described in subsection (a) shall conduct
34 a life-cycle cost analysis of any such facility's proposed design that evaluates the short-term and
35 long-term costs and the technical feasibility of using alternate technologies to provide lighting,
36 heat, water heating, air conditioning, refrigeration, gas or electricity. In calculating life-cycle
37 costs, a state agency shall include the value of avoiding carbon emissions, creating renewable
38 energy certificates and other environmental and associated benefits created from the utilization
39 of alternate technologies, and the costs of current or future replacements of fossil fuel dependent
40 technologies to comply with the provisions of Chapter 21N, as applicable. The value of carbon
41 emissions shall equal the value of avoided emissions utilized in the most recent energy efficiency
42 and demand resource plan approved pursuant to Chapter 25. For benefits other than reductions in
43 carbon emissions, this value shall be equal to the bid price of the published market value of any
44 such benefit and shall increase or decrease at a projected rate determined by the department of
45 energy resources. To calculate life-cycle costs, a state agency shall use a discount rate equal to
46 the rate that the commonwealth's tax-exempt long-term bonds are yielding at the time of said
47 calculation and shall assume that the cost of fossil fuels and electricity will increase at the rate of
48 3 per cent per year above the estimated rate of inflation or at a rate determined by the department
49 of energy resources.

50 SECTION 4. Said section 29 of said chapter 7C of the General Laws, as so appearing, is
51 hereby amended by adding the following subsection:-

52 (g)

53 (1) The executive office of administration and finance, hereafter referred to as the
54 executive office, shall promulgate regulations consistent with this subsection requiring certain
55 new or renovated buildings to use alternate technologies that are not fossil fuel dependent to
56 provide heat.

57 (2) As used in this subsection the following words shall, unless the context clearly
58 requires otherwise, have the following meanings:-

59 “Agency”, a commonwealth authority, including a quasi-public independent entity
60 performing a public function that does not receive direct appropriations from the commonwealth,
61 board, bureau, commission, department, division, executive office, institution, institution of
62 higher education, the secretary of state, the attorney general, the state treasurer, the state auditor,
63 the administrative office of the trial courts, trial court departments, the supreme judicial court,
64 the appeals court, the governor's office, lieutenant governor's office, the governor's council, the
65 Massachusetts Convention Center Authority, the house of representatives and the senate.

66 (2) The executive office shall require the use of alternate technologies to provide heat for
67 buildings:

68 (A) that are owned or operated by the commonwealth or an agency thereof;

69 (B) for which a municipality or regional school district receives funds from the
70 Massachusetts School Building Authority;

71 (C) for which a municipality, for profit or nonprofit corporation receives state tax credits
72 of more than \$100,000 specifically for the purpose of subsidizing building construction; or

73 (D) for which a municipality, for profit or nonprofit corporation receives more than
74 \$100,000 in funding specifically for the purpose of subsidizing building construction from an
75 agency.

76 (3) Paragraph (2) shall not, except as provided by regulation, require the use of alternate
77 technologies to provide heat for buildings:

78 (A) where a municipality, for profit or nonprofit corporation receives state tax credits for
79 any purpose other than subsidizing building construction;

80 (B) where a municipality, for profit or nonprofit corporation receives funding from an
81 agency for a purpose other than subsidizing building construction;

82 (C) where federal law would prohibit construction in such a manner or prevent federal
83 funding in excess of \$100,000 that would otherwise be expended for such a building;

84 (D) where the state leases a building owned by a for profit or nonprofit corporation for a
85 term of less than 10 years; or

86 (E) which are constructed solely for the purpose of residency and which include 3 or less
87 units.

88 (4) Paragraph (2) shall not, except as provided by regulation, require alternate
89 technologies to provide heat where the difference between the cost of installing alternate
90 technology to provide heat and the cost of a fossil fuel dependent heat delivery system are
91 greater than 10 per cent of the total construction cost of the building. The executive office of
92 administration and finance may increase the 10 per cent threshold by regulation.

93 (5) The regulations prescribed in paragraph (1) shall not prevent the use of technologies
94 that utilize electricity to provide heat solely because the source of electricity is or may be fossil
95 fuel dependent.

96 (6) The regulations prescribed in paragraph (1) may include an exception process
97 whereby a building shall not be required to include alternate technology to provide heat where
98 doing so would render impossible a substantial purpose of the building.