

HOUSE No. 3136

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Jennifer Balinsky Armini

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 to promote solar panel installations on school property.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Jennifer Balinsky Armini</i>	<i>8th Essex</i>	<i>1/18/2023</i>
<i>Lindsay N. Sabadosa</i>	<i>1st Hampshire</i>	<i>1/19/2023</i>
<i>Peter Capano</i>	<i>11th Essex</i>	<i>1/25/2023</i>
<i>James K. Hawkins</i>	<i>2nd Bristol</i>	<i>1/27/2023</i>
<i>Mindy Domb</i>	<i>3rd Hampshire</i>	<i>1/29/2023</i>
<i>Michelle L. Ciccolo</i>	<i>15th Middlesex</i>	<i>3/14/2023</i>

HOUSE No. 3136

By Representative Armini of Marblehead, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3136) of Jennifer Balinsky Armini and others for legislation to promote solar panel installations on school property. Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court
(2023-2024)**

An Act to promote solar panel installations on school property.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 Chapter 25A of the General Laws, as amended by section 41 of chapter 179 of the acts of
2 2022, is hereby further amended by adding the following section:-

3 Section 21. (a) The office in coordination with the department, as defined in section 3,
4 shall establish a program to promote, support and encourage the construction, installation and
5 operation of solar panels at K-12 public schools in districts across the commonwealth including,
6 municipal and state education offices. The program shall increase overall renewable energy
7 generation and improve energy efficiency through the installation of solar panels at K-12 public
8 schools.

9 (b) The program shall include:

10 (i) incentives to encourage the construction, installation and operation of solar panels,
11 which may include construction requirements, incentive payments, tax reductions or deferrals,
12 loans or grants, expedited interconnection requirements, zoning or other regulatory preferences

13 which may include, increasing the amount of the incentive through the state's current or future
14 solar incentive program for solar panel installation at K-12 public schools;

15 (ii) expanding installation of solar panels in the commonwealth;

16 (iii) maximizing the energy use savings of solar panels at K-12 public schools in the
17 commonwealth;

18 (iv) expand the availability of solar panel electric vehicle charging infrastructure
19 including, but not limited to: (i) technical assistance; (ii) demonstrations; and (iii) identification
20 and implementation of cost-effective energy efficiency, energy storage and electric vehicle
21 charging infrastructure measures and programs in existing and planned buildings or facilities of
22 K-12 public schools in the commonwealth;

23 (v) roof quality evaluations when considering the installation of solar panels at K-12
24 public schools; and

25 (vi) such other criteria and conditions necessary for an efficient and effective installation
26 of solar panels at K-12 public schools in the commonwealth.

27 (c) In designing the program, the department shall:

28 (i) consult with an advisory working group to make recommendations concerning the
29 design and operation of the program. The members of the advisory working group shall be
30 appointed by the secretary and shall include: (i) a representative of the department of energy
31 resources, who shall chair the working group; (ii) a representative of the department elementary
32 and secondary education; (iii) a representative of organized labor; (iv) a representative of the
33 solar energy industry; (v) a representative of an environmental group concerned with energy; (vi)

34 a representative of the construction industry; (vii) a representative of an electric utility or
35 organization representing electric utilities; (viii) a representative of local government in the
36 commonwealth; (ix) a person with expertise in energy siting; and (x) a person with expertise in
37 solar energy and energy efficiency;

38 (ii) review the design, installation and operation of solar panels proposed or in operation
39 in other states;

40 (iii) review cost and benefit analysis of K-12 public schools leasing solar panels rather
41 than operating solar panels;

42 (iv) review the federal Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 for possible funding for the
43 installation of solar panels at K-12 public schools; and

44 (v) hold not fewer than 3 public hearings in different regions of the commonwealth to
45 receive public testimony and input on the program including, but not limited to, proposals by K-
46 12 public school districts with 1 or multiple future projects for installation of solar panels.

47 (d) The department shall promulgate regulations as necessary to implement the program.

48 (e) If statutory changes are necessary to implement the program, the department shall
49 make specific recommendations to the general court for required changes in law.