

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Ellen Story and Todd M. Smola

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 establishing the genetic engineering transparency food and seed labeling act.

PETITION OF:

Name:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Ellen Story	3rd Hampshire
Todd M. Smola	1st Hampden
Joan B. Lovely	Second Essex
Bruce E. Tarr	First Essex and Middlesex
Michael J. Moran	18th Suffolk
Daniel A. Wolf	Cape and Islands
Stephen L. DiNatale	3rd Worcester
Sarah K. Peake	4th Barnstable
Carolyn C. Dykema	8th Middlesex
Tricia Farley-Bouvier	3rd Berkshire
Byron Rushing	9th Suffolk
James B. Eldridge	Middlesex and Worcester
Timothy R. Madden	Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket
Brian R. Mannal	2nd Barnstable
Marjorie C. Decker	25th Middlesex
Peter V. Kocot	1st Hampshire
Mary S. Keefe	15th Worcester
Gailanne M. Cariddi	1st Berkshire

Kathleen O'Connor Ives	First Essex
Nicholas A. Boldyga	3rd Hampden
Gloria L. Fox	7th Suffolk
James Arciero	2nd Middlesex
Brian M. Ashe	2nd Hampden
Cory Atkins	14th Middlesex
Bruce J. Ayers	1st Norfolk
Ruth B. Balser	12th Middlesex
Christine P. Barber	34th Middlesex
Michael J. Barrett	Third Middlesex
F. Jay Barrows	Ist Bristol
Jennifer E. Benson	37th Middlesex
Donald R. Berthiaume, Jr.	5th Worcester
Paul Brodeur	32nd Middlesex
Antonio F. D. Cabral	13th Bristol
Kate D. Campanale	17th Worcester
Harriette L. Chandler	First Worcester
Leah Cole	12th Essex
Edward F. Coppinger	10th Suffolk
Cynthia S. Creem	First Middlesex and Norfolk
Brendan P. Crighton	11th Essex
Claire D. Cronin	11th Plymouth
Daniel Cullinane	12th Suffolk
Mark J. Cusack	5th Norfolk
Josh S. Cutler	6th Plymouth
Michael S. Day	31st Middlesex
Viriato M. deMacedo	Plymouth and Barnstable
Angelo L. D'Emilia	8th Plymouth
Marcos A. Devers	16th Essex
Sal N. DiDomenico	Middlesex and Suffolk
Geoff Diehl	7th Plymouth
Daniel M. Donahue	16th Worcester
Paul J. Donato	35th Middlesex
Kenneth J. Donnelly	Fourth Middlesex
Shawn Dooley	9th Norfolk
Benjamin B. Downing	Berkshire, Hampshire, Franklin and
	Hampden
Michelle M. DuBois	10th Plymouth
Peter J. Durant	6th Worcester

James J. Dwyer	30th Middlesex
Lori A. Ehrlich	8th Essex
Ryan C. Fattman	Worcester and Norfolk
Kimberly N. Ferguson	1st Worcester
John V. Fernandes	10th Worcester
Ann-Margaret Ferrante	5th Essex
Michael J. Finn	6th Hampden
Carole A. Fiola	6th Bristol
Jennifer L. Flanagan	Worcester and Middlesex
Linda Dorcena Forry	First Suffolk
Paul K. Frost	7th Worcester
William C. Galvin	6th Norfolk
Sean Garballey	23rd Middlesex
Denise C. Garlick	13th Norfolk
Colleen M. Garry	36th Middlesex
Carmine L. Gentile	13th Middlesex
Susan Williams Gifford	2nd Plymouth
Anne M. Gobi	Worcester, Hampden, Hampshire and
	Middlesex
Thomas A. Golden, Jr.	16th Middlesex
Kenneth I. Gordon	21st Middlesex
Danielle W. Gregoire	4th Middlesex
Jonathan Hecht	29th Middlesex
Robert L. Hedlund	Plymouth and Norfolk
Paul R. Heroux	2nd Bristol
Bradford R. Hill	4th Essex
Kate Hogan	3rd Middlesex
Kevin G. Honan	17th Suffolk
Steven S. Howitt	4th Bristol
Donald F. Humason, Jr.	Second Hampden and Hampshire
Patricia D. Jehlen	Second Middlesex
Bradley H. Jones, Jr.	20th Middlesex
Brian A. Joyce	Norfolk, Bristol and Plymouth
Louis L. Kafka	8th Norfolk
Jay R. Kaufman	15th Middlesex
James M. Kelcourse	1st Essex
Thomas P. Kennedy	Second Plymouth and Bristol
Kay Khan	11th Middlesex
Robert M. Koczera	11th Bristol

Stephen Kulik	1st Franklin
Kevin J. Kuros	8th Worcester
John J. Lawn, Jr.	10th Middlesex
Eric P. Lesser	First Hampden and Hampshire
Jason M. Lewis	Fifth Middlesex
David Paul Linsky	5th Middlesex
Barbara L'Italien	Second Essex and Middlesex
Jay D. Livingstone	8th Suffolk
Marc T. Lombardo	22nd Middlesex
John J. Mahoney	13th Worcester
Elizabeth A. Malia	11th Suffolk
Paul W. Mark	2nd Berkshire
Christopher M. Markey	9th Bristol
Thomas M. McGee	Third Essex
Joseph W. McGonagle, Jr.	28th Middlesex
Joseph D. McKenna	18th Worcester
Paul McMurtry	11th Norfolk
James R. Miceli	19th Middlesex
Aaron Michlewitz	3rd Suffolk
Leonard Mirra	2nd Essex
Rady Mom	18th Middlesex
Mark C. Montigny	Second Bristol and Plymouth
Michael O. Moore	Second Worcester
Frank A. Moran	17th Essex
David K. Muradian, Jr.	9th Worcester
Mathew Muratore	1st Plymouth
David M. Nangle	17th Middlesex
Harold P. Naughton, Jr.	12th Worcester
Shaunna L. O'Connell	3rd Bristol
James J. O'Day	14th Worcester
Alice Hanlon Peisch	14th Norfolk
Thomas M. Petrolati	7th Hampden
William Smitty Pignatelli	4th Berkshire
Elizabeth A. Poirier	14th Bristol
Denise Provost	27th Middlesex
Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr.	12th Hampden
David M. Rogers	24th Middlesex
John H. Rogers	12th Norfolk
Dennis A. Rosa	4th Worcester

Jeffrey N. Roy	10th Norfolk
Daniel J. Ryan	2nd Suffolk
Tom Sannicandro	7th Middlesex
John W. Scibak	2nd Hampshire
Frank I. Smizik	15th Norfolk
Theodore C. Speliotis	13th Essex
Karen E. Spilka	Second Middlesex and Norfolk
Thomas M. Stanley	9th Middlesex
Benjamin Swan	11th Hampden
Walter F. Timilty	7th Norfolk
Timothy J. Toomey, Jr.	26th Middlesex
Paul Tucker	7th Essex
Aaron Vega	5th Hampden
John C. Velis	4th Hampden
RoseLee Vincent	16th Suffolk
Chris Walsh	6th Middlesex
James T. Welch	Hampden
Timothy R. Whelan	1st Barnstable
Susannah M. Whipps Lee	2nd Franklin
Donald H. Wong	9th Essex
Jonathan D. Zlotnik	2nd Worcester

By Representatives Story of Amherst and Smola of Warren, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3242) of Ellen Story and others relative to the labeling of genetically engineered food. Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION SEE HOUSE, NO. 3996 OF 2013-2014.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court (2015-2016)

An Act establishing the genetic engineering transparency food and seed labeling act.

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. (1) This act shall be known as the Genetic Engineering Transparency Food

2 and Seed Labeling Act.

3 (2) The Genetic Engineering Transparency Food and Seed Labeling Act results in a
4 consistent and enforceable standard for labeling foods and seeds produced using genetic
5 engineering, and thus provides the residents of the commonwealth with necessary factual
6 knowledge of how their food is produced. This knowledge is necessary for the following
7 reasons:

8 (a) Public health. Promote public health by allowing the food protection program to9 inform consumers regarding genetically engineered foods, and serve as a risk management tool

10 enabling consumers, physicians, and scientists to identify unintended health effects resulting11 from consumption of genetically engineered foods.

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(b) Environmental impacts. Assist consumers who are concerned about the potentialeffects of genetic engineering on the environment to make informed purchasing decisions.

(c) Consumer protection. Reduce and prevent consumer confusion and deception and
promote the disclosure of factual information on food and seed labels to allow consumers to
make informed decisions.

18 (d) Economic development. Create and protect non-genetically engineered crop markets19 and enable consumers to make informed purchasing decisions.

(e) Religious and cultural freedom. Provide consumers with data from which they may
make informed decisions for personal, religious, moral, cultural, or ethical reasons.

22 (3) This act shall be liberally construed to fulfill these purposes.

23 SECTION 2. Section 1 of Chapter 94 of the General Laws is hereby amended by
24 inserting after line 54 the following:-

25 "Genetically engineered" means produced from an organism or organisms in which the26 genetic material has been changed through the application of:

(a) In vitro nucleic acid techniques which include, but are not limited to, recombinant
deoxyribonucleic acid or ribonucleic acid techniques that use vector systems, and techniques
involving the direct introduction into the organisms of hereditary materials prepared outside the

organisms such as biolistics, microinjection, macro-injection, chemoporation, electroporation,
microencapsulation, and liposome fusion as well as direct injection of nucleic acid into cells or
organelles, encapsulation, gene deletion, and doubling; or

(b) Methods of fusing cells beyond the taxonomic family that overcome natural
physiological, reproductive, or recombination barriers, and that are not techniques used in
traditional breeding and selection such as conjugation, transduction, and hybridization.

36 SECTION 3. Said Chapter 94 is hereby further amended by inserting at the end thereof
 37 the following new section:-

38 Section 330. The Genetic Engineering Transparency Food and Seed Labeling Act.

39 (1) For the purposes of this section, the following words shall have the following40 definitions:-

41 "Food" shall have the same meaning given to it in section 1 of this chapter, with the42 following exceptions:-

43 (a) food products and seeds consumed by animals;

44 (b) any alcoholic beverages as defined by Section 1 of Chapter 138 of the General Laws;

45 (c) any food or beverage that meets the definition of "medical food" in paragraph 3 of
46 subsection (b) of Section 360ee of Title 21 of the United States Code, the Federal Food, Drug,
47 and Cosmetic Act, or any successor statute;

48 (d) food not packaged for retail sale that is either:

49 (i) prepared and intended for immediate human consumption, or

(ii) served, sold or otherwise provided in any restaurant or other food service
establishment that is primarily engaged in the sale of food prepared or intended for immediate
human consumption

53 "Packaged food" means any food exposed for retail sale in Massachusetts, other than raw 54 food and food served, sold, or provided ready to eat in any bake sale, commissary or food service 55 establishment

56 "Raw agricultural commodity" and "Raw food product" shall mean any product derived 57 from the science, art or practice of cultivating the soil, producing crops or raising livestock or 58 fish, and, in varying degrees, including the preparation and marketing of the resulting products, 59 but prior to their processing or combination into a food product.

60 (2) Any food product that is entirely or partially produced with genetic engineering shall61 be labeled in accordance with the provisions of this section.

(3) In the case of a genetically engineered raw food product packaged for retail sale, the
manufacturer shall include the words "Genetically Engineered" or "Produced with Genetic
Engineering" clearly and conspicuously on the front or back of the package of such commodity.
In the case of raw agricultural commodities that are not separately packaged or labeled, the
retailer shall place a clear and conspicuous label bearing those words on the retail store shelf or
bin in which such commodity is displayed for sale.

(4) To make clear who is responsible for compliance with the requirements of this
section, in the case of a raw food product, the retailer is responsible only for point of purchase
shelf labeling. The supplier must label each container used for packaging, holding, and/or

71 transporting any raw food product produced with genetic engineering that is delivered directly to72 Massachusetts retailers.

(5) In the case of any packaged food product containing some products of genetic
engineering, the manufacturer must label the product in clear and conspicuous language on the
front or back of the package of such food product with the words "Produced with Genetic
Engineering" or "Partially Produced with Genetic Engineering."

(6) This law does not require either the listing or identification of any ingredient or
ingredients that were genetically engineered or that the term "genetically engineered" be placed
immediately preceding any common name or primary product descriptor of a food product.

(7) An animal that has not itself been genetically engineered, regardless of whether such
animal has been fed or injected with any food or any drug that has been produced through means
of genetic engineering shall not be considered "genetically engineered" for purposes of this
section.

(8) Commencing January 1, 2017 a food product produced entirely or in part from
genetic engineering shall not be labeled on the product, in signage, or in advertising as "natural,"
"naturally made," "naturally grown," "all natural," or any words of similar import.

(9) The food protection program of the department of public health shall promulgate
regulations and guidelines necessary to implement this section. The food protection program
shall not exempt any food products not expressly exempted by this section, but may authorize
reasonable accommodations for products that due to peculiar size, packaging or storage
requirements, are able to demonstrate a hardship in complying with the labeling called for by this
act.

93 (10) The provisions of this section shall be enforced by the department and by local boards of health acting under the supervision of the department. Should the department deem 94 necessary, the attorney general shall issue a corrective action notice to any manufacturer or 95 retailer, describing a possible violation and how to remedy it. Such corrective action notice shall 96 97 also explain what documentation under subsection 13 may satisfy this section. Upon request of 98 the attorney general, the respondent manufacturer or retailer shall provide records and evidence 99 demonstrating compliance with this section up to 3 years prior to the alleged violation. If, after 30 days from the issuance of said corrective action notice the attorney general believes the 100 101 violation has not been remedied, the attorney general may bring an action to enjoin a violation of 102 this section in any court of competent jurisdiction. A violation of this section shall be punishable by a civil penalty of not more than \$1000 per day, per product; provided, that said penalty shall 103 104 accrue and be assessed per each uniquely named, designated, or marketed product, and shall not be made or multiplied by the number of individual packages exposed for retail sale. 105

(11) Any injured citizen of Massachusetts may, after giving notice of the alleged
violation to the food protection program and the alleged violator and waiting 60 days, bring an
action to enjoin a violation of this section by a manufacturer or retailer in any court of competent
jurisdiction. The court may, in such an action, award to a citizen who is a prevailing plaintiff
reasonable attorneys' fees and costs incurred in investigating and prosecuting the action, but the
court may not award any further monetary damages.

(12) No person may be subject to an injunction or responsible for payment of prevailingparty attorneys' fees for failure to label any food if:

(a) in the case of packaged food, the materials produced through genetic engineering donot account for more than nine tenths of one percent of the total weight of the packaged food; or

(b) the food has not been produced with the knowing or intentional use of geneticengineering; or

(c) the food protection program and court of jurisdiction are satisfied that the food
product has been duly labeled, upon conclusion of an investigation and proceeding under Section
189A.

(13) For purposes of this section, food will be considered not to have been produced withthe knowing or intentional use of genetic engineering if:

(a) such food is lawfully certified to be labeled, marketed, and offered for sale as
"organic" pursuant to the section 6501 of Title 7 of the United States Code, the Organic Foods
Production Act, or any successor statute, which already prohibits genetic engineering;

(b) in the case of a manufacturer or retailer obligated to label any food under this act, if
such entity has obtained from whomever sold that food to them a statement signed under pains
and penalty of perjury that the food has not been knowingly or intentionally genetically
engineered and has been segregated from, and not knowingly or intentionally commingled with,
foods that may have been genetically engineered at any time. In providing such statement, a
manufacturer or retailer may rely on such statement from a supplier that contains such an
affirmation signed under pains and penalty of perjury; or

(c) the food protection program or an independent organization has determined that thefood has not been knowingly or intentionally genetically engineered and has been segregated

from, and not knowingly or intentionally commingled with, foods that may have been genetically engineered at any time, if such a determination has been made pursuant to a sampling and testing procedure (i) consistent with sampling and testing principles recommended by internationally recognized standards organizations and (ii) which does not rely on testing processed foods in which no DNA is detectable.

(14) It shall be a violation of this section for any retailer, wholesaler or distributor to
knowingly and willfully remove, alter or obscure any label affixed under this section, or to
knowingly and willfully fail to provide point of purchase labeling for unpackaged raw
agricultural commodities. In any action in which it is alleged that a retailer has violated the
provisions of this section, it shall be an affirmative defense that such retailer reasonably relied
on:

(a) any disclosure whether a food was produced through genetic engineering contained inthe bill of sale or invoice provided by the wholesaler or distributor; or

148 (b) a lack of such disclosure.

(15) No action may be brought against any farmer for any violation of any provision of this section unless such farmer is also a retailer or manufacturer, but any farmer submitting a false sworn statement under paragraph (b) of subsection (13) of this section shall be subject to section 1A of chapter 268 of the General Laws.

SECTION 4. Section 187 of said chapter 94 is hereby amended by inserting after the
words "misleading labeling." in line 137 the following paragraph:-

155 "Fifteenth, if it is intended for human consumption and genetically engineered, as defined
156 in section 1 of this chapter, and does not bear labeling in accordance with section 330 of this
157 chapter.

158 SECTION 5. Section 84 of Chapter 128 of the General Laws is hereby amended by159 inserting after the definition of "Flower seeds" the following definitions:-

160 "Genetically engineered seed" shall mean any agricultural, flower, tree and shrub,
161 vegetable or weed seed produced from an organism or organisms in which the genetic material
162 has been changed through the application of:

(a) In vitro nucleic acid techniques which include, but are not limited to, recombinant
deoxyribonucleic acid or ribonucleic acid, direct injection of nucleic acid into cells or organelles,
encapsulation, gene deletion, and doubling, recombinant deoxyribonucleic acid or ribonucleic
acid techniques that use vector systems, and techniques involving the direct introduction into the
organisms of hereditary materials prepared outside the organisms such as biolistics,
microinjection, macro-injection, chemoporation, electroporation, microencapsulation, and
liposome fusion; or

(b) Methods of fusing cells beyond the taxonomic family that overcome natural
physiological, reproductive, or recombination barriers, and that are not techniques used in
traditional breeding and selection such as conjugation, transduction, and hybridization.

173 "Genetically engineered plant part" shall mean a whole plant or plant part, including
174 scions intended for planting, which contains material derived from a genetically engineered seed
175 or is itself produced using the methods described in the definition of genetically engineered seed.

176 SECTION 6. Said Chapter 128 is hereby amended by adding after section 89 the177 following new section:-

178 Section 89A. Genetically engineered seeds; labeling or tagging containers

Each container of genetically engineered seed distributed, offered for sale or exposed for sale within the commonwealth shall bear the identity of such seed, relevant traits or characteristics of the seed that cause it to be defined as genetically engineered, plus any legal requirements or recommended precautions for their safe handling, storage, transport, and use, the contact point for further information and, as appropriate, the name and address of the manufacturer, distributor, or supplier of such seed.

The commissioner shall promulgate regulations requiring the annual reporting by manufacturers or processors of all genetically engineered seed and genetically engineered plant parts distributed, sold or exposed for sale within the commonwealth, as to the nature of sales of genetically engineered seed and genetically engineered plant products during the previous calendar year.

SECTION 7. Section 93 of said Chapter 128 is hereby amended in line 3 by striking out
the words "flower or tree and shrub", and inserting in place thereof the following words:-

192 "flower, tree and shrub or genetically engineered"

SECTION 8. Said Section 93 is hereby further amended in line 11 by striking out the
words "flower and tree or shrub", and inserting in place thereof the following words:-

195 "flower, tree and shrub or genetically engineered"

196 SECTION 9. This act shall take effect January 1, 2017.