

HOUSE No. 3562

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

William Driscoll

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 study the health of the Blue Hills Forest and ecology to inform long-term reservation management.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>William Driscoll</i>	<i>7th Norfolk</i>
<i>Denise Provost</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>
<i>Bruce J. Ayers</i>	<i>1st Norfolk</i>
<i>Mike Connolly</i>	<i>26th Middlesex</i>
<i>Paul McMurtry</i>	<i>11th Norfolk</i>
<i>Louis L. Kafka</i>	<i>8th Norfolk</i>
<i>William N. Brownsberger</i>	<i>Second Suffolk and Middlesex</i>
<i>Daniel J. Ryan</i>	<i>2nd Suffolk</i>
<i>Natalie Higgins</i>	<i>4th Worcester</i>
<i>Marjorie C. Decker</i>	<i>25th Middlesex</i>
<i>Angelo M. Scaccia</i>	<i>14th Suffolk</i>
<i>Kenneth I. Gordon</i>	<i>21st Middlesex</i>
<i>James M. Cantwell</i>	<i>4th Plymouth</i>
<i>Daniel Cullinane</i>	<i>12th Suffolk</i>
<i>John F. Keenan</i>	<i>Norfolk and Plymouth</i>
<i>Dylan Fernandes</i>	<i>Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket</i>
<i>Joan Meschino</i>	<i>3rd Plymouth</i>

<i>Michelle M. DuBois</i>	<i>10th Plymouth</i>
<i>Alice Hanlon Peisch</i>	<i>14th Norfolk</i>
<i>John H. Rogers</i>	<i>12th Norfolk</i>
<i>Sean Garballey</i>	<i>23rd Middlesex</i>
<i>Jack Lewis</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>
<i>William Crocker</i>	<i>2nd Barnstable</i>
<i>Michael F. Rush</i>	<i>Norfolk and Suffolk</i>
<i>Daniel Cahill</i>	<i>10th Essex</i>

HOUSE No. 3562

By Mr. Driscoll of Milton, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3562) of William Driscoll and others for legislation to authorize an independent scientific organization to study and survey of the forest, wildlife and environmental health of the Blue Hills Reservation. Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninetieth General Court
(2017-2018)**

An Act to study the health of the Blue Hills Forest and ecology to inform long-term reservation management.

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

1 There shall be conducted an independent, scientific study and survey of the forest,
2 wildlife and environmental health of the Blue Hills Reservation, which shall focus on: (i)
3 potential reasons for the declining forest health, (ii) the deer population and the effectiveness of
4 hunting as a means of culling large deer populations, (iii) the health of plant and insect life on the
5 reservation and potential factors contributing to any decline in plant or insect health, (iv) the
6 effect of ecological changes and climate change on the health of the forest and the plant and
7 animal species, and (v) proposed solutions to ensure improvements in the forest, wildlife and
8 environmental health of the reservation.

9 The study and survey shall be conducted by an independent scientific organization to be
10 selected by the department of conservation and recreation and the department of fisheries and
11 wildlife. The departments shall choose such organization to conduct the study and survey within

12 6 months after the effective date of this act, and the independent scientific organization shall
13 report its findings and data in the form of a report and survey, which shall include proposed
14 solutions and the costs associated with such solutions, to the department of conservation and
15 recreation and the department of fisheries and wildlife within 1 year following the start of the
16 study.

17 There shall be a moratorium on the continuation and further implementation of the blue
18 hills reservation deer management program and any controlled deer hunting in the reservation
19 until the findings of such study and survey have been reported to the department of conservation
20 and recreation and the department of fisheries and wildlife, and such departments have reviewed
21 the findings and proposed updated solutions based on such findings.