

HOUSE No. 3714

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Sean Garballey, (BY REQUEST)

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 create a special commission to study the effects of rat poison on wildlife.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Laura Kiesel

HOUSE No. 3714

By Mr. Garballey of Arlington (by request), a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3714) of Laura Kiesel for an investigation by a special commission (including members of the General Court) relative to the effects of rat poison on wildlife. Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act to create a special commission to study the effects of rat poison on wildlife.

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 a special commission governed by section 2A of chapter 4 of the General
2 Laws to study the issue of resident rodent populations in the commonwealth.

3 The commission shall consist of the following members: 1 member of the senate
4 appointed by the senate president; 1 member of the house of representatives appointed by the
5 speaker of the house of representatives; 1 member of the senate appointed by the minority leader
6 of the senate; 1 member of the house of representatives appointed by the minority leader of the
7 house; the secretary of energy and environmental affairs or a designee, who shall serve as co-
8 chair; the secretary of health and human services or a designee, who shall serve as co-chair; the
9 commissioner of the department of environmental protection or a designee; the commissioner of
10 the department of public health or a designee; the commissioner of fisheries and wildlife or a
11 designee; and 8 people to be appointed by the governor, 1 of whom shall have professional
12 expertise in pest control for the city of Boston; 1 of whom shall represent a trade group for pest

13 control, 1 of whom shall be a licensed pest control operator who specializes in integrated pest
14 management for rodents, 1 of whom shall represent an advocacy group for public health, 1 of
15 whom shall represent an advocacy group for the protection of birds, 1 of whom shall represent an
16 advocacy group for the protection of mammals, 1 of whom shall represent the professional
17 wildlife rehabilitation community with direct knowledge of the impact that pesticides have on
18 wildlife that consume them, and 1 of whom shall represent an advocacy group for the protection
19 of people from pesticides.

20 As part of its study, the commission shall: (1) determine the highest priority areas for
21 addressing conflicts with rodents and controlling rodent population growth; (2) conduct a
22 comprehensive review of rodent management techniques, including but not limited to, alternative
23 rodent control methods such as integrative pest management; (3) create a plan for
24 implementation of applicable rodent management techniques that may include implementation of
25 rodent contraception methods, dry ice and site-specific trapping when needed; (4) recommend a
26 plan to conduct pilot studies in areas with high populations of rodent activity to test the
27 effectiveness of diversifying rodent control methods beyond pesticides, to include integrative
28 pest management and deterrents such as increased sanitation; and (5) develop and recommend a
29 model integrative pest management plan, which shall (i) be designed to serve as the framework
30 for mitigating conflicts with rodents and controlling population growth, (ii) incorporate non-
31 lethal control through the use of exclusion methods, reducing access to nesting sites, and
32 reducing access to garbage and other food sources, (iii) include educational and awareness-
33 building efforts that enhance cultural practices along with wildlife-proofing enhancements to
34 garbage receptacles across residential, commercial and shared community space elements, (iv)
35 establish site-specific goals, pest biology, consensus building, action thresholds, and needed

36 human behavior and culture change, and (v) incorporate an adaptive management component
37 that calls for evaluating project results and revisiting them if goals are not met.

38 The commission shall submit a report on its findings, including any proposed legislation,
39 to the clerks of the house of representatives and senate, the chairs of the senate and house
40 committees on ways and means and the chairs of the joint committee on environment, natural
41 resources and agriculture no later than March 1, 2020.