

HOUSE No. 402

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Christine P. Barber

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 resolve:

Resolve providing for an investigation and study by a special commission relative to protein innovation in Massachusetts.

PETITION OF:

| NAME: | DISTRICT/ADDRESS: | DATE ADDED: |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| <i>Christine P. Barber</i> | <i>34th Middlesex</i> | <i>1/18/2023</i> |
| <i>Jack Patrick Lewis</i> | <i>7th Middlesex</i> | <i>1/23/2023</i> |
| <i>Ruth B. Balsler</i> | <i>12th Middlesex</i> | <i>2/6/2023</i> |
| <i>Jason M. Lewis</i> | <i>Fifth Middlesex</i> | <i>2/7/2023</i> |
| <i>Patrick M. O'Connor</i> | <i>First Plymouth and Norfolk</i> | <i>2/7/2023</i> |
| <i>Julian Cyr</i> | <i>Cape and Islands</i> | <i>2/8/2023</i> |
| <i>Kate Lipper-Garabedian</i> | <i>32nd Middlesex</i> | <i>2/22/2023</i> |
| <i>Natalie M. Higgins</i> | <i>4th Worcester</i> | <i>2/23/2023</i> |
| <i>James C. Arena-DeRosa</i> | <i>8th Middlesex</i> | <i>3/1/2023</i> |
| <i>James B. Eldridge</i> | <i>Middlesex and Worcester</i> | <i>3/4/2023</i> |
| <i>Lindsay N. Sabadosa</i> | <i>1st Hampshire</i> | <i>3/8/2023</i> |
| <i>Mathew J. Muratore</i> | <i>1st Plymouth</i> | <i>3/10/2023</i> |

HOUSE No. 402

By Representative Barber of Somerville, a petition (accompanied by resolve, House, No. 402) of Christine P. Barber and others for an investigation by a special commission (including members of the General Court) relative to alternative proteins and to develop a master plan of recommendations for fostering the appropriate expansion of protein innovation and the alternative protein industry. Economic Development and Emerging Technologies.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

Resolve providing for an investigation and study by a special commission relative to protein innovation in Massachusetts.

1 **Resolved**, that a special Protein Innovation Commission is hereby established for the
2 purposes of making an investigation and study relative to alternative proteins and to develop a
3 master plan of recommendations for fostering the appropriate expansion of protein innovation
4 and the alternative protein industry in the Commonwealth. The special legislative commission
5 shall study how the commonwealth of Massachusetts can best support the growing alternative
6 protein industry in the state. The commission shall examine the potential economic development
7 benefits, and job creation potential, of the plant-based, cultivated, and fermented meat industries
8 in Massachusetts; identify the environmental benefits, including with respect to the reduced land
9 use, reduced deforestation, and reduced greenhouse gas emissions, of alternative proteins
10 compared to conventional meat and dairy products in Massachusetts; examine how alternative
11 proteins can strengthen the state’s food resiliency; assess how alternative proteins can improve
12 individual and public health and combat antibiotic resistance; identify ways the state of

13 Massachusetts can foster the growth of the emerging alternative protein industry, including by
14 reviewing past efforts made to support the broader biotech and life science industries.

15 As used in this resolve, the following words shall have the following meanings unless the
16 context clearly requires otherwise:

17 “Alternative proteins” refers to proteins created from plant-based, fermented, or cell-
18 cultured inputs and processes to create foods that share sensory characteristics that are consistent
19 with conventional meat and dairy.

20 “Plant-based protein” refers to proteins produced directly from plants, composed of
21 protein, fat, vitamins, minerals, and water.

22 “Fermented proteins” refers to proteins made from traditional fermentation, biomass
23 fermentation, and precision fermentation.

24 “Cultivated meat” refers to meat that is directly produced from animal cells using a cell
25 cultivation process using bioreactors.

26 The Protein Innovation Commission shall consist of 13 members: 3 members of the
27 senate, 2 of whom shall be appointed by the president and 1 of whom shall be appointed by the
28 minority leader of the senate, 3 members of the house 2 of whom shall be appointed by the
29 speaker and 1 of whom shall be appointed by the minority leader of the house. The president and
30 the speaker shall each designate 1 of their appointments to serve as co-chair of the commission.
31 The commission shall further consist of the secretary of economic development or their designee,
32 and 6 members appointed by the governor, 2 of whom are engaged in academic or scientific
33 research on alternative protein development at a Massachusetts college or university, 1 of whom

34 is engaged in the private sector research and development of alternative proteins; 1 of whom
35 shall be an expert in food security issues; and 1 of whom shall be the president of the
36 Massachusetts Biotechnology Council or their designee.

37 Members shall not receive compensation for their services.

38 All appointments shall be made not later than 30 days after the effective date of this
39 resolve. The co-chairs shall schedule no fewer than 4 meetings of the commission, including no
40 fewer than 1 public hearing. The co-chairs shall convene the first meeting of the special
41 commission within 60 days after the effective date of this resolve.

42 The commission shall study and analyze the potential benefits of alternative proteins, and
43 shall address in its review: (i) the job growth potential of the alternative protein industry in
44 Massachusetts, as demand for meat continues to grow; (ii) how plant-based, fermented, and
45 cultivated meat can reduce the state's greenhouse gas emissions, and yield other environmental
46 benefits; (iii) how the state can support new and emerging companies in this sector, and what
47 pressing challenges the industry currently faces; (iv) any other topic that the commission may
48 choose to examine in relation to alternative proteins.

49 The commission shall submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the General
50 Court, together with drafts of legislation necessary to carry out those recommendations, not later
51 than December 31, 2023.