

HOUSE No. 4270

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, March 5, 2018.

The committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture to whom was referred the 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, reports recommending that the accompanying bill (House, No. 4270) ought to pass.

For the committee,

SMITTY PIGNATELLI.

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**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.