

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 757**

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***William J. Driscoll, Jr.***

*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 J. Driscoll, Jr.</i>	<i>7th Norfolk</i>
<i>Carlos Gonzalez</i>	<i>10th Hampden</i>
<i>Dylan A. Fernandes</i>	<i>Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket</i>
<i>Bruce J. Ayers</i>	<i>1st Norfolk</i>
<i>Daniel R. Cullinane</i>	<i>12th Suffolk</i>
<i>Linda Dean Campbell</i>	<i>15th Essex</i>
<i>Nika C. Elugardo</i>	<i>15th Suffolk</i>
<i>Sean Garballey</i>	<i>23rd Middlesex</i>
<i>Denise C. Garlick</i>	<i>13th Norfolk</i>
<i>James K. Hawkins</i>	<i>2nd Bristol</i>
<i>Natalie M. Higgins</i>	<i>4th Worcester</i>
<i>Daniel J. Hunt</i>	<i>13th Suffolk</i>
<i>Louis L. Kafka</i>	<i>8th Norfolk</i>
<i>Patrick Joseph Kearney</i>	<i>4th Plymouth</i>
<i>Jack Patrick Lewis</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>
<i>Paul McMurtry</i>	<i>11th Norfolk</i>
<i>Denise Provost</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>

<i>David Allen Robertson</i>	<i>19th Middlesex</i>
<i>David M. Rogers</i>	<i>24th Middlesex</i>
<i>Daniel J. Ryan</i>	<i>2nd Suffolk</i>
<i>Angelo M. Scaccia</i>	<i>14th Suffolk</i>
<i>Thomas M. Stanley</i>	<i>9th Middlesex</i>
<i>José F. Tosado</i>	<i>9th Hampden</i>
<i>Paul F. Tucker</i>	<i>7th Essex</i>
<i>Jason M. Lewis</i>	<i>Fifth Middlesex</i>
<i>John F. Keenan</i>	<i>Norfolk and Plymouth</i>
<i>Michael O. Moore</i>	<i>Second Worcester</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 757**

---

By Mr. Driscoll of Milton, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 757) of William J. Driscoll, Jr. 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.

---

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE HOUSE, NO. 3562 OF 2017-2018.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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

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.