

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 844**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

*Alice Hanlon Peisch*

*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 protect the rights of municipalities and districts.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Alice Hanlon Peisch</i>	<i>14th Norfolk</i>
<i>David Paul Linsky</i>	<i>5th Middlesex</i>
<i>James Arciero</i>	<i>2nd Middlesex</i>
<i>Patrick M. O'Connor</i>	<i>Plymouth and Norfolk</i>
<i>David F. DeCoste</i>	<i>5th Plymouth</i>

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By Ms. Peisch of Wellesley, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 844) of Alice Hanlon Peisch and others relative to the Massachusetts Water Management Act. Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture.

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[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE HOUSE, NO. 2137 OF 2017-2018.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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

An Act to protect the rights of municipalities and districts.

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

1           SECTION 1. Section 2 of chapter 21G of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2016  
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting at the end of the definition of “Permit” the  
3 following sentence:-

4           The permit program is intended to assist the department in the comprehensive  
5 management of the commonwealth’s water resources within its river basins in a manner that  
6 ensures an appropriate balance among competing water withdrawals and uses, as well as  
7 preservation of the water resource itself.

8           SECTION 2. Said section 2 of said chapter 21G of the General Laws, as so appearing, is  
9 hereby further amended by inserting at the end of the definition of “Registration statement” the  
10 following sentence:-

11           The registration statement is intended to enable the department to document baseline  
12 water use in the commonwealth.

13           SECTION 3. Section 5 of said chapter 21G of the General Laws, as appearing in the  
14 2016 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding the following paragraph:-

15           All properly filed water management act renewal registration statements shall entitle the  
16 registrants to their registered water use volumes without conditions excepting that the department  
17 may require proper metering or other means to accurately measure the volume of water  
18 withdrawn under a renewal registration statement. No regulations may be promulgated that  
19 would allow the imposition of any such conditions other than withdrawal volume measurement.