

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 00857**

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

*Demetrius J. Atsalis*

*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 passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act establishing a renewable energy investment commission .

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Demetrius J. Atsalis</i>	<i>2nd Barnstable</i>
<i>Gailanne Cariddi</i>	<i>1st Berkshire</i>
<i>William "Smitty" Pignatelli</i>	<i>4th Berkshire</i>
<i>George N. Peterson, Jr.</i>	<i>9th Worcester</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 00857**

By Mr. Demetrius J. Atsalis of Barnstable, petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 00857) of George N. Peterson and others establishing a renewable energy investment commission . Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Eleven

An Act establishing a renewable energy investment commission .

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

1 Whereas, the deferred operation of this act would tend to defeat its purpose, which is forthwith to  
2 create jobs, provide economic relief to the people of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and  
3 increase renewable electricity generation, and conserve and protect the natural resources of the  
4 Commonwealth of Massachusetts, therefore it is hereby declared to be an emergency law,  
5 necessary for the immediate preservation of the public convenience.

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

8 .

9 SECTION 1. This Act shall be entitled the “Renewable Energy Investment Act”, and  
10 shall be construed in a manner to achieve its public purposes, which are to encourage the  
11 development of clean, renewable, electric generating plants and ancillary facilities powered by

12 clean technology, ensure that such facilities are sited in appropriate locations based on clear,  
13 predictable, and protective environmental, cultural and historic resource standards.

14 SECTION 2.           There is hereby established a special renewable energy investment  
15 commission to consist of 2 members of the senate, 1 of whom shall be the senate chair for the  
16 joint committee on telecommunication and energy who shall serve as co-chair, and 1 of whom  
17 shall be appointed by the senate minority leader; 2 members of the house of representatives, 1 of  
18 whom shall be the house chair for the joint committee on telecommunication and energy who  
19 shall serve as co-chair, and 1 of whom shall be appointed by the house minority leader; 3 persons  
20 to be appointed by the governor, 1 of whom shall be a executive of an electric or distribution  
21 company, and 1 of whom shall be a representative of a consumer advocacy organization, and 1  
22 of whom shall be nationally recognized renewable energy policy and financing professional  
23 based in the Commonwealth; and the commissioner of energy resources or a designee; the  
24 secretary of energy and environmental affairs or a designee, a representative of the Associated  
25 Industries of Massachusetts, a representative of the Massachusetts Competitive Partnership who  
26 shall serve as co-chair, a representative of Environment Northeast, a representative of the  
27 Massachusetts Clean Energy Center, a representative of the New England Independent System  
28 Operator, and a representative of the National Federation of Independent Businesses, for the  
29 purpose of making an investigation and study relative to the impact of chapter 164 of the acts of  
30 1997 (an act relative to the restructuring of the electric utility industry in the commonwealth),  
31 chapter 114 of the acts of 2008 (the oceans act of 2008), chapter 169 of the acts of 2008 (an act  
32 relative to green communities) chapter 206 of the acts of 2008 (the clean energy biofuels act),  
33 chapter 298 of the acts of 2008 (the global warming solutions act), and Chapter 307 of the acts of  
34 2008 (the green jobs act), collectively hereinafter referred to as “the energy acts,” and any and all

35 substantive and technical amendments to the energy acts, with regard to the energy acts  
36 collective and respective impact on residential and commercial rates through 2020, taking into  
37 account renewable energy initiatives existing in the states that geographically border the  
38 Commonwealth, including the cost of transmission required to transport renewable energy in  
39 order to meet the Commonwealth's renewable portfolio standard, and taking into account  
40 benefits including but not limited to the avoidance or reduction of greenhouse gases and other  
41 pollutants, energy reliability, security and diversification, and detriments including but not  
42 limited to the impact on ecologically sensitive areas, large unfragmented habitat blocks, priority  
43 or estimated habitats for plant and animal species listed pursuant to chapter 131A, populations  
44 of bird and bat species that are considered by the department of fish and game as being  
45 vulnerable to impacts from the operation of wind turbines, historic, cultural, or scenic or  
46 recreational areas of special federal or state significance, noise and public safety. The  
47 commission should illustrate and analyze the rate payer impact of introducing existing, large-  
48 scale hydro-electricity, generated within and outside the Commonwealth's borders, as a  
49 renewable resource qualified to meet the class 1 renewable portfolio standard requirement in the  
50 Commonwealth. The commission shall report the results of its investigation and study and its  
51 recommendations, if any, together with a detailed description and chart of the residential and  
52 commercial rate impact of acquiring electricity for renewable resources, including the relative  
53 impact on residential and commercial electricity and tax rates of state and federal renewable  
54 energy funding, grants and other incentive programs, including net metering relative to each  
55 service territory within the Commonwealth, and short and long term projections through 2020 of  
56 private sector investment in renewable energy generation facilities in the Commonwealth, along  
57 with drafts of legislation necessary to carry its recommendations into effect by filing the same

58 with the clerks of the senate and the house of representatives on or before September 1, 2011.  
59 Members of the commission shall not receive compensation for their services but may receive  
60 reimbursement for the reasonable expenses incurred in carrying out their responsibilities as  
61 members of the commission. The commission shall convene no later than 30 days after the  
62 effective date of this act.