

SENATE No. 1603

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Michael R. Knapik

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>Michael R. Knapik</i>	<i>Second Hampden and Hampshire</i>
<i>Bruce E. Tarr</i>	<i>First Essex and Middlesex</i>
<i>Richard J. Ross</i>	<i>Norfolk, Bristol and Middlesex</i>
<i>Bruce J. Ayers</i>	<i>1st Norfolk</i>

SENATE No. 1603

By Mr. Knapik, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1603) of Michael R. Knapik, Bruce E. Tarr, Richard J. Ross and Bruce J. Ayers for legislation to create the renewable energy investment act. Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Thirteen

An Act establishing a renewable energy investment commission.

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

□

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: This Act shall be entitled the “Renewable Energy Investment Act”, and
2 shall be construed in a manner to achieve its public purposes, which are to determine the
3 cumulative costs to consumers and businesses of all the Commonwealth’s renewable and
4 alternative energy and energy efficiency measures, programs, and incentives and to encourage
5 the development and procurement of renewable energy sources that are low cost and cost
6 effective for the Commonwealth’s consumers and businesses.

7 SECTION 2. (a) There is hereby established a renewable energy investment commission
8 to research and determine the cumulative costs to consumers and businesses, on an annual basis,
9 of all the Commonwealth’s renewable and alternative energy and energy efficiency measures,
10 programs, and incentives, as well as, to encourage the development and procurement of
11 renewable energy sources that are low cost and cost effective for the Commonwealth’s
12 consumers and businesses.

13 (b) The commission shall consist of: 2 members of the senate, the chair of the joint
14 committee on telecommunication and energy, or his designee, who shall serve as co-chair, and

15 the senate minority leader, or his designee; 2 members of the house of representatives, the chair
16 of the joint committee on telecommunication and energy, or his designee, who shall serve as co-
17 chair, the house minority leader, or his designee; 3 appointees of the governor, 1 of whom shall
18 be an executive of an electric or distribution company, 1 of whom shall be a representative of a
19 consumer advocacy organization, and 1 of whom shall be nationally recognized renewable
20 energy policy and financing professional based in the Commonwealth; the attorney general, or
21 his designee; the secretary of energy and environmental affairs, or his designee; a representative
22 of the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center; a representative of the New England Independent
23 System Operator; 1 representative each of the Associated Industries of Massachusetts, the
24 National Federation of Independent Businesses, the Retailers Association of Massachusetts, and
25 the Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation; and, a representative of the Massachusetts
26 Competitive Partnership, who shall serve as a co-chair.

27 (c) The commission shall investigation and report to the legislature shall include, but not
28 be limited to the followings, chapter 164 of the acts of 1997, chapter 114 of the acts of 2008,
29 chapter 169 of the acts of 2008, chapter 206 of the acts of 2008, chapter 298 of the acts of 2008,
30 Chapter 307 of the acts of 2008, and Chapter 209 of the acts of 2012 collectively hereinafter
31 referred to as “the energy acts,” and any and all substantive and technical amendments to the
32 energy acts, with regard to the energy acts’ respective and collective impacts upon residential
33 and commercial electricity rates from 1997 through 2020, taking into account, for comparative
34 and competitive purposes, renewable energy initiatives existing in the states that geographically
35 border the Commonwealth, including the cost of transmission required to transport renewable
36 energy in order to meet the Commonwealth’s renewable portfolio standard, and taking into
37 account the avoidance or reduction of greenhouse gases and other pollutants, energy reliability,
38 security and diversification, and detriments including, but not limited to, the impact on
39 ecologically sensitive areas, large unfragmented habitat blocks, priority or estimated habitats for
40 plant and animal species listed pursuant to chapter 131A, populations of bird and bat species that
41 are considered by the department of fish and game as being vulnerable to impacts from the
42 operation of wind turbines, historic, cultural, or scenic or recreational areas of special federal or
43 state significance, noise and public health and safety and job creation.

44 (d) The commission shall report the results of its investigation and study and its
45 recommendations together with a detailed description and chart of the residential and
46 commercial rate impact of acquiring electricity from renewable resources, including line item for
47 each state and federal payable by an end user and attributable to renewable energy funding,
48 grants, and other incentive programs, including net metering.

49 (e) The commission shall report short and long-term projections though 2020 of private
50 sector investment in renewable energy generation facilities in the Commonwealth, along with
51 recommended drafts of legislation necessary to carry its recommendations into effect by filing
52 the same with the clerks of the senate and the house of representatives on or before January 15,
53 2014.

54 (f) The powers of the commission shall include, but not be limited to: (i) using voluntary
55 and uncompensated services of private individuals, agencies and organizations as may be offered
56 or needed; (ii) recommending policies and making recommendations to agencies and officers of
57 the commonwealth and local subdivisions of government; (iii) enacting by-laws for the
58 commission's own governance; and (iv) holding regular public meetings, fact-finding hearings
59 and other public forums as the commission considers necessary.

60 (g) The commission may request from all state agencies such information and assistance
61 as the commission may require. The commission may also request such information from
62 companies and organizations with state contracts that provide services relative to the scope of the
63 commission.

64 (h) Members of the commission shall not receive compensation for their services but may
65 receive reimbursement for the reasonable expenses incurred in carrying out their responsibilities
66 as members of the commission.

67 (i) The commission shall convene its first meeting no later than 30 days after the effective
68 date of this act and shall submit its report, along with any recommendations for legislative or
69 regulatory reforms, not later than September 1, 2013 with the clerks of the house of
70 representatives and the senate who shall forward a copy of the report to the house and senate
71 chairs of the joint committee on telecommunications, utilities and energy.