

**SENATE . . . . . No. 1771**

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

*James B. Eldridge*

*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 promoting zero net-energy buildings in the Commonwealth.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>
<i>Chris Walsh</i>	<i>6th Middlesex</i>
<i>Denise Provost</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>
<i>Marjorie C. Decker</i>	<i>25th Middlesex</i>
<i>David M. Rogers</i>	<i>24th Middlesex</i>
<i>Brian A. Joyce</i>	<i>Norfolk, Bristol and Plymouth</i>
<i>Jonathan Hecht</i>	<i>29th Middlesex</i>
<i>Benjamin Swan</i>	<i>11th Hampden</i>
<i>Daniel J. Ryan</i>	<i>2nd Suffolk</i>
<i>Marc R. Pacheco</i>	<i>First Plymouth and Bristol</i>
<i>Gailanne M. Cariddi</i>	<i>1st Berkshire</i>

**SENATE . . . . . No. 1771**

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By Mr. Eldridge, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1771) of James B. Eldridge, Chris Walsh, Denise Provost, Marjorie C. Decker and other members of the General Court for legislation to promote zero net-energy buildings in the Commonwealth. Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy.

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[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE SENATE, NO. 1587 OF 2013-2014.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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**In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court  
(2015-2016)**  
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An Act promoting zero net-energy buildings in the Commonwealth.

*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. Chapter 143 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2012 Official Edition,  
2 is hereby amended in Section 94 by striking subsection (o) in its entirety and inserting in place  
3 thereof the following new subsection:-

4 (o) To establish a zero net energy building standard for new residential construction by  
5 January 1st, 2020 and a zero net energy building standard for new commercial construction by  
6 January 1st 2030. The board shall implement residential and commercial zero net energy  
7 building regulations as part of the state building code, together with any more stringent energy  
8 efficiency provisions that the board, in consultation with the department of energy resources,  
9 concludes are warranted. The residential and commercial zero net energy building standards

10 shall incrementally increase the energy efficiency of all new construction beginning with a 30%  
11 increase in efficiency below the most recent international energy conservation code, as  
12 developed by the International Code Council.

13 SECTION 2. Said chapter 143 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby further  
14 amended in Section 94 by inserting after subsection (r) the following new subsection:-

15 (s) To establish two definitions, in consultation with the department of energy resources  
16 and after sufficient time for public input, one for “residential zero net-energy buildings,” to be  
17 established by January 1st, 2017, and one for “commercial zero net energy buildings,” to be  
18 established by January 1st, 2018. The definitions shall take into account zero net energy building  
19 definitions established in other states or municipalities and the current and anticipated climate of  
20 Massachusetts. Further, the definitions shall be designed to ensure that all zero net energy  
21 buildings generate as much renewable electricity, as defined in the state renewable electricity  
22 standard, through on-site, or a reasonably proximate, approved, off-site location, as the building  
23 consumes over the course of one calendar year.