

SENATE . . . . . No. 1935

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Joanne M. Comerford

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 establishing a net zero stretch energy code.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
Joanne M. Comerford	Hampshire, Franklin and Worcester	
Jennifer E. Benson	37th Middlesex	1/31/2019
Mike Connolly	26th Middlesex	1/25/2019
Julian Cyr	Cape and Islands	2/1/2019
Sal N. DiDomenico	Middlesex and Suffolk	1/31/2019
Mindy Domb	3rd Hampshire	1/28/2019
James B. Eldridge	Middlesex and Worcester	1/31/2019
Nika C. Elugardo	15th Suffolk	1/29/2019
Tami L. Gouveia	14th Middlesex	1/25/2019
Russell E. Holmes	6th Suffolk	2/4/2019
Mary S. Keefe	15th Worcester	1/31/2019
Jack Patrick Lewis	7th Middlesex	1/31/2019
Elizabeth A. Malia	11th Suffolk	2/1/2019
Denise Provost	27th Middlesex	1/31/2019
Rebecca L. Rausch	Norfolk, Bristol and Middlesex	2/1/2019
Walter F. Timilty	Norfolk, Bristol and Plymouth	1/29/2019
José F. Tosado	9th Hampden	1/29/2019

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By Ms. Comerford, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1935) of Joanne M. Comerford, Jennifer E. Benson, Mike Connolly, Julian Cyr and other members of the General Court for legislation to establish a net zero stretch energy code. Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy.

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court  
(2019-2020)**  
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An Act establishing a net zero stretch energy code.

*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 25A of the General Laws are hereby amended by inserting after  
2 section 10 the following section:-

3 SECTION 10A. (a) For the purposes of this section “board” shall mean the board of  
4 building regulations and standards and “department” shall mean department of energy resources.

5 (b) The board, in consultation with the department, after sufficient time for public input  
6 that includes not less than 2 hearings in environmental justice communities as defined in  
7 Executive Order 552 but not more than one year after enactment of this section, shall establish a  
8 definition for “net zero buildings” to be established not more than 1 year after enactment of this  
9 section; provided, that the definition shall be designed to ensure that the building is highly  
10 energy efficient with all remaining electrical and thermal energy needed for the building supplied  
11 by renewable sources generated onsite or through approved, offsite locations or a combination of

12 onsite and offsite; and provided further that said definition shall be used to update the current  
13 Stretch Energy Code in Appendix 115AA of the Massachusetts building energy code.

14 (c) The board in consultation with the department shall promulgate regulations that  
15 include the “net zero buildings” definition within Appendix 115AA of the Massachusetts  
16 building energy code or equivalent regulatory commitment to net zero standards as determined  
17 by the secretary of energy and environmental affairs; provided further that such regulations shall  
18 include a requirement to adopt and utilize such definition to develop a net zero stretch energy  
19 code to be fully implemented by 2030; provided further that said regulations shall be  
20 promulgated not later than 2 years following passage of this section; provided further that said  
21 regulations shall be reviewed and updated in increments of not less than 3 years and in alignment  
22 with the same cycle as the International Energy Conservation Code; provided further that the  
23 board in consultation with the department shall hold hearings to review such regulations and its  
24 updates including not less than 2 held in environmental justice communities as defined in  
25 Executive Order 552 for each review or update cycle with appropriate and reasonable advance  
26 notice to said communities.

27 (d) The board in consultation with the department shall implement the following in  
28 achieving the goals of this section: (1) the development of a tiered implementation plan for the  
29 adoption of a net zero building code as appropriate, such as phasing in net zero requirements  
30 based on building type or year a municipality adopted the Stretch Energy Code, with initial  
31 implementation of such plan commencing no later than 3 years following passage of this section;  
32 (2) accommodation for the needs of environmental justice communities as defined in Executive  
33 Order 552; and (3) consideration of the prioritization of regional renewable energy generation.