

# SENATE . . . . . No. 1986

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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In the Year Two Thousand Fourteen  
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SENATE, Thursday, January 23, 2014

The committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture to whom was referred the petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 347) of Sonia Chang-Diaz and Christopher M. Markey for legislation to designate conservation districts as bodies politic and corporate, and granting them real property authority,- reports the accompanying bill (Senate, No. 1986).

For the committee,  
Marc R. Pacheco

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**In the Year Two Thousand Fourteen**  
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An Act granting conservation districts authority to acquire real property.

*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 24 of chapter 21, of the General Laws as appearing in the 2012  
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out, in lines 1 and 2, the words, “The supervisors  
3 of a conservation district shall also have the following powers and duties:”; and inserting in  
4 place thereof the following words:–

5           A conservation district and its supervisors, shall, in addition to any other powers granted  
6 under sections 21 through 25, inclusive, have the following powers and duties:

7           SECTION 2. Said section 24 of said chapter 21, as so appearing, is hereby further  
8 amended by inserting after paragraph (4) the following paragraph:–

9           (4A) To acquire by purchase, exchange, gift, grant, bequestor otherwise, any ownership  
10 interests and rights, in real property located within the boundaries of the district and in personal  
11 property; and to hold such real and personal property interest in the name of the conservation  
12 district; and subject to law and the nature of such interest, to maintain, administer and improve  
13 any such property so acquired; and to receive income from such property and to expend any such

14 income to carrying out the purposes and provisions of the conservation district as provided under  
15 sections 21 to 25, inclusive; and to sell, lease or dispose of such property or interests therein;  
16 provided, that interests in real property and personal property shall be acquired for conservation  
17 purposes and shall not be used or disposed except in furtherance of such conservation purpose;  
18 and provided further, that upon acquisition by a conservation district, such ownership interest  
19 and restricted purpose in real property shall be recorded in the name of the district in the registry  
20 of deeds or land court for the jurisdiction where the property is located All such property,  
21 including any income realized from such property or upon sale thereof, shall be exempt from  
22 taxation for state, county and municipal purposes and from betterments and special assessments.

23 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect on July 1, 2014.