

SENATE No. 484

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Adam G. Hinds

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 the Office of Outdoor Recreation.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Adam G. Hinds</i>	<i>Berkshire, Hampshire, Franklin and Hampden</i>	
<i>Natalie M. Blais</i>	<i>1st Franklin</i>	
<i>Smitty Pignatelli</i>	<i>4th Berkshire</i>	
<i>Ruth B. Balsler</i>	<i>12th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/28/2019</i>
<i>Tommy Vitolo</i>	<i>15th Norfolk</i>	<i>1/31/2019</i>
<i>Harold P. Naughton, Jr.</i>	<i>12th Worcester</i>	<i>1/31/2019</i>
<i>Christina A. Minicucci</i>	<i>14th Essex</i>	<i>1/31/2019</i>
<i>Jonathan Hecht</i>	<i>29th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/31/2019</i>
<i>David T. Vieira</i>	<i>3rd Barnstable</i>	<i>2/1/2019</i>
<i>Mary S. Keefe</i>	<i>15th Worcester</i>	<i>2/1/2019</i>
<i>Anne M. Gobi</i>	<i>Worcester, Hampden, Hampshire and Middlesex</i>	<i>2/1/2019</i>
<i>Daniel J. Ryan</i>	<i>2nd Suffolk</i>	<i>2/1/2019</i>
<i>David Biele</i>	<i>4th Suffolk</i>	<i>2/1/2019</i>
<i>Jack Patrick Lewis</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/1/2019</i>
<i>Stephan Hay</i>	<i>3rd Worcester</i>	<i>2/1/2019</i>
<i>Michael J. Finn</i>	<i>6th Hampden</i>	<i>2/1/2019</i>

<i>John Barrett, III</i>	<i>1st Berkshire</i>	<i>2/1/2019</i>
<i>Michelle L. Ciccolo</i>	<i>15th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/1/2019</i>
<i>David Allen Robertson</i>	<i>19th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/4/2019</i>

SENATE No. 484

By Mr. Hinds, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 484) of Adam G. Hinds, Natalie M. Blais, Smitty Pignatelli, Ruth B. Balsler and other members of the General Court for legislation to establish the Office of Outdoor Recreation. Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court
(2019-2020)**

An Act establishing the Office of Outdoor Recreation.

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 21A of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the
2 following new section:

3 Section XXXX. (a) There shall be within the executive office of environmental affairs,
4 the office of outdoor recreation, hereinafter in this chapter referred to as the “office”. It shall be
5 the duty of the office to serve as an agency of the commonwealth to promote and market outdoor
6 recreational activities of the commonwealth to the public, to support economic development in
7 the commonwealth and to improve the quality of life, health and well-being of residents in the
8 commonwealth. The secretary of energy and environmental affairs shall designate a competent
9 and qualified person to be the director of the office of outdoor recreation.

10 The words “outdoor recreation”, as used herein, shall include, but not be limited to,
11 activities that occur in a natural environment or physical landscape, including various active and
12 passive sports and activities, including, but not limited to: trail-dependent sports and activities,

13 including hiking, recreational cycling, mountain biking and recreational equestrianism; natural
14 landscape-dependent sports and activities, including wildlife viewing, mountain and rock
15 climbing; water-dependent sports and activities, including water skiing, swimming, surfing,
16 fishing, kayaking, canoeing, rafting, and other paddle sports; snow-dependent sports and
17 activities, including skiing and sledding.

18 (b) In carrying out its duties the office shall:

19 (i) coordinate and collaborate with the executive office of energy and environmental
20 affairs, the executive office of housing and economic development, the Massachusetts office of
21 travel and tourism, the department of public health, and such other departments, boards, officials
22 and institutions of the commonwealth as may be concerned with matters under its supervision, as
23 well as the outdoor recreation industry, outdoor recreation community, environmental
24 community, natural resources community, and other common stakeholders, including private and
25 public entities, to promote economic development and outdoor recreation in the commonwealth;

26 (ii) assist in developing or updating the outdoor recreation management strategies of the
27 department;

28 (iii) serve as a public resource and information center for the outdoor recreation industry
29 and common stakeholders in the commonwealth;

30 (iv) collect, record and analyze data on the social, economic, health and resource impacts
31 of outdoor recreation in the commonwealth, provided that said impacts shall include, but not
32 limited to, the social, economic, health and resource impacts on youth, low-income, urban or
33 disparate communities in the commonwealth;

34 (v) recommend or implement policies and initiatives to enhance recreational amenities
35 and experiences in the commonwealth, provided that said policies and initiatives shall improve
36 access for youth, low-income, urban or disparate communities;

37 (vi) recommend or implement policies and initiatives to increase access to recreational
38 amenities and experiences in the commonwealth, provided that said policies and initiatives shall
39 improve access for youth, low-income, urban or disparate communities;

40 (vii) promote the health, social and economic benefits of outdoor recreation in
41 coordination with related state programs and initiatives and other public and private entities
42 related to outdoor recreation;

43 (viii) coordinate and collaborate with outdoor recreation offices, agencies, or departments
44 in other states to develop best practices;

45 (ix) annually, on or before March 30th, submit a report that details an analysis of data
46 collected on the health, social and economic impacts of outdoor recreation in the commonwealth.
47 The report shall be made in consultation with, but not limited to, the executive office of energy
48 and environmental affairs, the Massachusetts office of travel and tourism, executive office of
49 housing and economic development, and the department of public health. The report shall be
50 filed with the governor, clerks of the house of representatives and senate, the joint committee on
51 tourism, arts and cultural development, the joint committee on economic development, and the
52 joint committee on the environment, natural resources and agriculture. The report shall be posted
53 on the official website of the commonwealth.

54 (c) The office may expend funds appropriated by the general court for purposes of
55 carrying out this section and as may be appropriate to carry out subparagraph (d) of this section.

56 (d) There shall be established and set up on the books of the commonwealth a separate
57 fund known as the Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund, hereinafter in this section referred to as “the
58 fund”. The director shall administer the fund for purposes of providing competitive grant or loan
59 opportunities to programs, projects and initiatives of organizations, businesses and other public
60 or private entities determined to support or promote the mission of the office.

61 The fund shall consist of public and private sources such as gifts, grants and donations,
62 interest earned on gifts, grants and donations, and any funds provided from other sources.
63 Revenues remaining in the fund at the end of a fiscal year shall not revert to the general fund and
64 shall be available for expenditure in the following fiscal year. The director shall report annually
65 on the activities of the fund to the clerks of the house and senate and the house and senate
66 committees on ways and means.

67 (e) The department shall promulgate regulations necessary for the administration of this
68 section.