

SENATE No. 885

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Jason M. Lewis, (BY REQUEST)

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 for Chapter 40B reform and improvement.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Vincent Lawrence Dixon

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

*60 Lake Street Unit N, Winchester MA
01890*

SENATE No. 885

By Mr. Lewis (by request), a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 885) of Vincent Lawrence Dixon for legislation for Chapter 40B reform and improvement. Housing.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. 896 OF 2021-2022.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court
(2023-2024)**

An Act for Chapter 40B reform and improvement.

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 I. The Massachusetts General Laws are hereby amended by inserting the
2 following new chapter:
3 Chapter 40B Reform And Improvement (Providing for Important Environmental Impact
4 Review, by local municipal bodies, and other appropriate adjustments).

5 SECTION II – PURPOSE

6 Chapter 40B provisions of the Massachusetts General Laws, have proven to be
7 controversial, and needing adjustments, and reform. This legislation is designed to
8 provide such

9 appropriate reforms, and needed adjustments, while recognizing that various public
10 policy concerns, including affordable housing needs remain, and need to be provided for.

11 SECTION III – REQUIRED ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW – AND STANDARDS

12 1.) All projects qualifying under Chapter 40B provisions, must still be reviewed, and
13 qualified by local municipal authorities, in regards to environmental impact, and

14 Environmental

15 Impact Review reporting (EIR). No Chapter 40B project, may be exempted from
16 environmental

17 review, and approval by the local municipality, in which it would be created, and
18 constructed.

19 2.) All Chapter 40B projects, must conform to any conservation land, wetland, and
20 watershed protections; and approval of such projects, must include review by municipal
21 conservation commissions.

22 3.) Other relevant government bodies, including regional commissions, and housing
23 authorities, shall review any such projects.

24 4.) Comprehensive state planning, and coordination, must be referenced in terms of these
25 projects; including issues of neighborhood, and community-friendly developers; high-
26 quality

27 lasting construction standards; and relevant modest, to medium intensity, regional transit
28 options.