

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 1155**

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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PRESENTED BY:

*George N. Peterson, Jr.*

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*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 passage of the accompanying:

An Act establishing renewable energy investment commission.

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PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>George N. Peterson, Jr.</i>	<i>9th Worcester</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 1155**

By Mr. Peterson of Grafton, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1155) of George N. Peterson, Jr. for legislation establishing a special renewable energy investment commission. Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture.

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

An Act establishing renewable energy investment commission.

*Whereas*, The deferred operation of this act would tend to defeat its purpose, which is to create jobs, provide economic relief to the people of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and increase renewable electricity generation, and conserve and protect the natural resources of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, therefore, it is hereby declared to be an emergency law, necessary for the immediate preservation of the public convenience.

□

*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. This Act shall be entitled the “Renewable Energy Investment Act”, and  
2 shall be construed in a manner to achieve its public purposes, which are to encourage the  
3 development of clean, renewable, electric generating plants and ancillary facilities powered by  
4 clean technology, ensure that such facilities are sited in appropriate locations based on clear,  
5 predictable, and protective environmental, cultural and historic resource standards.

6 SECTION 2. There is hereby established a special renewable energy investment  
7 commission to consist of 2 members of the senate, 1 of whom shall be the senate chair for the  
8 joint committee on telecommunication and energy who shall serve as co-chair, and 1 of whom  
9 shall be appointed by the senate minority leader; 2 members of the house of representatives, 1 of  
10 whom shall be the house chair for the joint committee on telecommunication and energy who  
11 shall serve as co-chair, and 1 of whom shall be appointed by the house minority leader; 3 persons  
12 to be appointed by the governor, 1 of whom shall be a executive of an electric or distribution  
13 company, and 1 of whom shall be a representative of a consumer advocacy organization, and 1  
14 of whom shall be nationally recognized renewable energy policy and financing professional  
15 based in the Commonwealth; and the commissioner of energy resources or a designee; the  
16 secretary of energy and environmental affairs or a designee, a representative of the Associated  
17 Industries of Massachusetts, a representative of the Massachusetts Competitive Partnership who  
18 shall serve as co-chair, a representative of Environment Northeast, a representative of the

19 Massachusetts Clean Energy Center, a representative of the New England Independent System  
20 Operator, and a representative of the National Federation of Independent Businesses, for the  
21 purpose of making an investigation and study relative to the impact of chapter 164 of the acts of  
22 1997 (an act relative to the restructuring of the electric utility industry in the commonwealth),  
23 chapter 114 of the acts of 2008 (the oceans act of 2008), chapter 169 of the acts of 2008 (an act  
24 relative to green communities) chapter 206 of the acts of 2008 (the clean energy biofuels act),  
25 chapter 298 of the acts of 2008 (the global warming solutions act), and Chapter 307 of the acts of  
26 2008 (the green jobs act), collectively hereinafter referred to as “the energy acts,” and any and all  
27 substantive and technical amendments to the energy acts, with regard to the energy acts  
28 collective and respective impact on residential and commercial rates through 2020, taking into  
29 account renewable energy initiatives existing in the states that geographically border the  
30 Commonwealth, including the cost of transmission required to transport renewable energy in  
31 order to meet the Commonwealth’s renewable portfolio standard, and taking into account  
32 benefits including but not limited to the avoidance or reduction of greenhouse gases and other  
33 pollutants, energy reliability, security and diversification, and detriments including but not  
34 limited to the impact on ecologically sensitive areas, large unfragmented habitat blocks, priority  
35 or estimated habitats for plant and animal species listed pursuant to chapter 131A, populations  
36 of bird and bat species that are considered by the department of fish and game as being  
37 vulnerable to impacts from the operation of wind turbines, historic, cultural, or scenic or  
38 recreational areas of special federal or state significance, noise and public safety. The  
39 commission should illustrate and analyze the rate payer impact of introducing existing, large-  
40 scale hydro-electricity, generated within and outside the Commonwealth’s borders, as a  
41 renewable resource qualified to meet the class 1 renewable portfolio standard requirement in the  
42 Commonwealth. The commission shall report the results of its investigation and study and its  
43 recommendations, if any, together with a detailed description and chart of the residential and  
44 commercial rate impact of acquiring electricity for renewable resources, including the relative  
45 impact on residential and commercial electricity and tax rates of state and federal renewable  
46 energy funding, grants and other incentive programs, including net metering relative to each  
47 service territory within the Commonwealth, and short and long term projections through 2020 of  
48 private sector investment in renewable energy generation facilities in the Commonwealth, along  
49 with drafts of legislation necessary to carry its recommendations into effect by filing the same  
50 with the clerks of the senate and the house of representatives on or before September 1, 2011.  
51 Members of the commission shall not receive compensation for their services but may receive  
52 reimbursement for the reasonable expenses incurred in carrying out their responsibilities as  
53 members of the commission. The commission shall convene no later than 30 days after the  
54 effective date of this act.