

HOUSE No. 3672

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Michael J. Rodrigues

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 bill:

An Act to protect the eastern box turtle.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Michael J. Rodrigues

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

8th Bristol

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

AN ACT TO PROTECT THE EASTERN BOX TURTLE.

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. There is hereby established a special commission to study the development,
2 implementation and financing of a conservation management plan for the protection of the eastern box
3 turtle in the Massachusetts. The commission shall consist of 7 members: 1 of whom shall be the
4 commissioner of the department of environmental protection, or her designee, who shall serve as the chair
5 of the commission; 1 of whom shall be the director of the department of fish and game, or her designee; 1
6 of whom shall be the executive director of the Lloyd Center for Environmental Studies, or his designee;
7 and 6 members to be appointed by the governor, 1 of whom shall be a member of the Massachusetts
8 Audubon Society, 1 of whom shall be a member of the Massachusetts Wildlife Federation; 1 of whom
9 shall be a member of the Nature Conservancy of Massachusetts, 1 of whom shall be a member of the
10 Home Builders Association of Massachusetts, 1 of whom shall be a member of the National Association
11 of Industrial and Office Properties of Massachusetts and 1 of whom shall be a member of the
12 Massachusetts Farm Bureau.

13 The study shall include but shall not be limited to: an assessment and prioritization of the habitat
14 needs of the eastern box turtle based upon the extent, quality and juxtaposition of habitats and their
15 predicted ability to support a self-sustaining population, including the size and lack of fragmentation of
16 habitat and proximity and connectivity to other relatively uninterrupted habitats, especially within

17 existing protected open space; and the consideration of various strategies to reduce the need to include
18 certain properties in the Natural Heritage Atlas published by the Natural Heritage and Endangered
19 Species Program, including, but not limited to, the purchase of conservation land by the commonwealth
20 and the creation of incentives to encourage the use of conservation restrictions and agricultural
21 preservation restrictions by private property owners

22 The commission shall file a report of its study together with its recommendations for legislation,
23 if any, with the clerks of the house and senate no later than December 31, 2009.