

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 726**

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

*Kate Hogan*

*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 to strengthen and expand the Board of Agriculture.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Kate Hogan</i>	<i>3rd Middlesex</i>
<i>Sarah K. Peake</i>	<i>4th Barnstable</i>
<i>Christopher M. Markey</i>	<i>9th Bristol</i>
<i>Chris Walsh</i>	<i>6th Middlesex</i>
<i>Peter V. Kocot</i>	<i>1st Hampshire</i>
<i>Anne M. Gobi</i>	<i>5th Worcester</i>
<i>Paul A. Schmid, III</i>	<i>8th Bristol</i>
<i>Timothy R. Madden</i>	<i>Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket</i>
<i>Denise Andrews</i>	<i>2nd Franklin</i>
<i>Ann-Margaret Ferrante</i>	<i>5th Essex</i>
<i>Geoff Diehl</i>	<i>7th Plymouth</i>
<i>Stephen Kulik</i>	<i>1st Franklin</i>
<i>Carolyn C. Dykema</i>	<i>8th Middlesex</i>
<i>Kimberly N. Ferguson</i>	<i>1st Worcester</i>
<i>Steven S. Howitt</i>	<i>4th Bristol</i>
<i>Jennifer E. Benson</i>	<i>37th Middlesex</i>
<i>Kenneth I. Gordon</i>	<i>21st Middlesex</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>

*Patricia A. Haddad*  
*Ellen Story*

*5th Bristol*  
*3rd Hampshire*

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By Ms. Hogan of Stow, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 726) of Kate Hogan and others for legislation to increase the membership of the Board of Agriculture within the Department of Agricultural Resources. Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture.

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[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE HOUSE, NO. 3221 OF 2011-2012.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**In the Year Two Thousand Thirteen**  
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An Act to strengthen and expand the Board of Agriculture.

*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 1 of chapter 20 is hereby removed and replaced with the following:

2 "There shall be a Department of Agricultural Resources under the supervision and control  
3 of a board of agriculture, hereinafter called the board. The board shall consist of 13 members  
4 who shall represent the geographic diversity of the Commonwealth as well as the diversity of  
5 agricultural operations within the Commonwealth, appointed by the Governor.

6 At least 9 members of the board shall be farmers whose principal vocation is the  
7 production of food and fiber. Member shall be appointed for a term of 3 years with no member  
8 serving more than two consecutive terms.

9 The board shall meet not less than six times a year or at the call of the chairman and at  
10 such times as shall be determined by its rules or at the request of the commissioner or the call of  
11 any three members. The chairman shall be annually appointed by a majority of said board  
12 present and voting thereon. Board members shall receive fifty dollars for each day or portion  
13 thereof spent in the discharge of their official duties not to exceed six hundred dollars per year  
14 and shall be reimbursed for the travel to and from official board meetings and other expenses  
15 necessary to conduct such meetings.

16           There shall be a commissioner of agricultural resources who shall be appointed and may  
17 be removed by the secretary of environmental affairs with the approval of the governor. Said  
18 commissioner shall have charge of the administration of the department. The department may  
19 expend for traveling expenses of its employees incurred in the performance of their official  
20 duties and for other necessary expenses of the department, such sums as may be appropriated."