

HOUSE No. 762

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Nine

An Act [Title].

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 Resolve relative to protecting the archaeological and fossil resources of Western
2 Massachusetts.

3 Resolved, There is hereby established a special commission on protecting the
4 archaeological, geological, and fossil resources of the Connecticut River Valley. Said special
5 commission shall review existing special and general laws, may hold hearings at various
6 locations across the Commonwealth to obtain written and oral testimony and may consult with
7 state and federal agencies to determine if existing state laws and regulations adequately protect
8 the archaeological, geological and fossil resources located within the Connecticut River Valley.
9 Said special commission shall be comprised of three members of the House of Representatives,
10 appointed by the Speaker, of which at least two shall be from a district in western Massachusetts
11 that includes a portion of the Connecticut river that has significant fossil, archaeological or
12 geological deposits; three members of the Senate, appointed by the President, of which at least
13 two shall be from a district in western Massachusetts that includes the Connecticut river; four of
14 whom shall be appointed by the Governor, of which one shall be a professor of archaeology at

15 the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, one of whom shall be a recognized authority on
16 western Massachusetts geological formations who is a professor at a Massachusetts college or
17 university, one whom shall be an environmental police officer who has experience with
18 investigating the unlawful removal of archaeological, geological or fossil resources, and one of
19 whom shall be of native American descent of a tribe indigenous to western Massachusetts; one
20 member shall be appointed by the secretary of the commonwealth, who shall be knowledgeable
21 of the archaeological and historic resources of the Connecticut river valley. Said special
22 commission may receive funding through state appropriation or grants, federal appropriation or
23 grants, private gifts and donations, provided, that said special commission shall file its report
24 with the joint committee on natural resources and agriculture and the clerks of the House and
25 Senate no later than October 1, 2010.