

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 2009**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

*Peter V. Kocot*

*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 protect the right whale.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Peter V. Kocot</i>	<i>1st Hampshire</i>	<i>1/20/2011</i>
<i>Carl M. Sciortino, Jr.</i>	<i>34th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/28/2011</i>
<i>William N. Brownsberger</i>		<i>1/21/2011</i>
<i>Cory Atkins</i>	<i>14th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/31/2011</i>
<i>Jason M. Lewis</i>	<i>31st Middlesex</i>	<i>2/4/2011</i>
<i>Paul W. Mark</i>	<i>2nd Berkshire</i>	<i>2/2/2011</i>
<i>Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr.</i>	<i>12th Hampden</i>	<i>2/4/2011</i>
<i>Tom Sannicandro</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/4/2011</i>
<i>John W. Scibak</i>	<i>2nd Hampshire</i>	<i>2/2/2011</i>
<i>Ellen Story</i>	<i>3rd Hampshire</i>	<i>2/4/2011</i>
<i>Cleon H. Turner</i>	<i>1st Barnstable</i>	<i>2/4/2011</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 2009**

By Mr. Kocot of Northampton, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2009) of Peter V. Kocot and others relative to the protection of right whales within the coastal waters of the Commonwealth. Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE HOUSE, NO. 761 OF 2009-2010.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**In the Year Two Thousand Eleven**  
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An Act to protect the right whale.

*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. Chapter 29 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after  
2 section 2JJJ the following section:-

3 Section 2KKK. There shall be established and set up on the books of the commonwealth  
4 a separate fund to be known as the Right Whale Research and Protection Fund, the funds of  
5 which shall be expended by the division of coastal zone management within the executive office  
6 of environmental affairs for the purpose of funding efforts to diminish fatalities of right whales  
7 in Massachusetts coastal waters, including support of efforts by the northeast implementation  
8 team. Said division shall establish a grant program to expend said funds and shall give priority  
9 to companies, public institutions of higher education and non-profit corporations located within  
10 the Commonwealth, including, but not limited to woods hole oceanographic institute, the center

11 for coastal studies, new england aquarium and other entities with established records of right  
12 whale research. Said division shall prioritize the expenditure of said funds on developing data  
13 related to the interaction of northern right whales and vessels transitting cape cod bay and the  
14 great south channel, improvements to the mandatory ship reporting system, improvements to  
15 fishing and lobstering gear, improvements to the remote monitoring of right whales and the  
16 development of acoustical and optical systems to diminish right whale fatalities.

17         The Right Whale Research and Protection Fund shall receive monies from: (1) gifts,  
18 grants, appropriations and donations from public or private sources; (2) federal reimbursements  
19 and grants-in-aid; (3) any interest earned from the fund; and (4) the proceeds of special  
20 obligation bond sales by the commonwealth, denoted as the Right Whale Research and  
21 Protection Loan Act of 2012. The state treasurer shall receive, deposit and invest funds held in  
22 such a manner as to ensure the highest interest rate available consistent with the safety of the  
23 fund. The books and records of the fund shall be subject to an annual audit by the state auditor.  
24 The division of coastal zone management may expend such funds, in addition to appropriation,  
25 and no expenditure from the fund shall cause it to be in deficiency at the close of a fiscal year.  
26 The director of coastal zone management shall report annually to the house and senate  
27 committees on ways and means and the joint committee on natural resources and agriculture on  
28 income received into the fund and the sources of that income, any expenditures from the fund  
29 and their purposes and fund balances.

30         SECTION 2. To meet a portion of the expenditures necessary in carrying out the  
31 provisions of section 2KKK of chapter 29 of the General Laws, the state treasurer shall, upon  
32 request of the governor, issue and sell bonds of the commonwealth in an amount to be specified  
33 by the governor from time to time, but not exceeding in the aggregate the sum of \$2,000,000 to

34 be in addition to those bonds previously authorized and which authorizations remain  
35 uncommitted or unobligated on the effective date of this act. All bonds issued by the  
36 commonwealth as aforesaid shall be designated on their face, Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
37 and the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs Right Whale Research and Protection Loan  
38 Act of 2012, and shall be issued for a maximum term of years, not exceeding 20 years, as the  
39 governor may recommend to the general court pursuant to Section 3 of Article LXII of the  
40 Amendments to the Constitution of the Commonwealth; provided, however, that all such bonds  
41 shall be payable not later than June 30, 2032. All interest and payments on account of principal  
42 of such obligations shall be payable from the General Fund. Bonds and interest thereon issued  
43 under the authority of this section shall be general obligations of the commonwealth.