SENATE DOCKET, NO. 949 FILED ON: 1/20/2011

SENATE . . . . . No. 1700

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

James T. Welch

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 establishing renewable energy investment commission..

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
James T. Welch	
Frank I. Smizik	*15th Norfolk*

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SENATE . . . . . No. 1700

By Mr. Welch, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1700) of James T. Welch and Frank I. Smizik for legislation to establish a renewable energy investment commission. Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Eleven

An Act establishing renewable energy investment commission..

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

SECTION 1. This Act shall be entitled the "Renewable Energy Investment Act", and shall be construed in a manner to achieve its public purposes, which are to encourage the development of clean, renewable, electric generating plants and ancillary facilities powered by clean technology, ensure that such facilities are sited in appropriate locations based on clear, predictable, and protective environmental, cultural and historic resource standards.

SECTION 2. There is hereby established a special renewable energy investment commission to consist of 2 members of the senate, 1 of whom shall be the senate chair for the joint committee on telecommunication and energy who shall serve as co-chair, and 1 of whom shall be appointed by the senate minority leader; 2 members of the house of representatives, 1 of whom shall be the house chair for the joint committee on telecommunication and energy who shall serve as co-chair, and 1 of whom shall be appointed by the house minority leader; 3 persons to be appointed by the governor, 1 of whom shall be a executive of an electric or distribution 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), chapter169 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 though 2020 of
48 private sector investment in renewable energy generation faculties 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.