

SENATE No. 394

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Steven A. Tolman

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 a river access commission.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Steven A. Tolman

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

SENATE No. 394

By Mr. Tolman, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 394) of Steven A. Tolman for legislation to establish a river access commission. Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Eleven

An Act establishing a river access commission.

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 shall be established a special commission to investigate and
2 study the ability of residents of the allston and brighton neighborhoods of the city of Boston to
3 access the charles river, impediments to residents of allston and brighton in accessing the charles
4 river and to recommend potential strategies to increase access to the charles river by residents of
5 allston and brighton. The commission shall consist of 1 member of the allston community; 1
6 member of the brighton community; 1 member of the boston redevelopment authority; 1 member
7 of the senate, who shall be appointed by the president of the senate; 1 member of the house of
8 representatives, who shall be appointed by the speaker of the house; and 3 members to be
9 appointed by the governor; 1 of whom shall be a representative from the department of
10 conservation and recreation; 1 of whom shall be a representative from the charles river
11 conservancy; 1 of whom shall be a representative of the emerald necklace conservancy. The
12 study shall include, without limitation, a review and analysis of: the impediments to accessing
13 the river park from allston and brighton; an investigation of utilization of the river park by allston

14 and brighton residents; possible modifications which would improve access to the river park
15 from the allston and brighton neighborhoods; consideration of public safety improvements to
16 pedestrian crossing and sidewalks including, but not limited to, traffic signal improvements; the
17 evaluation of proposed development projects in the allston and brighton communities and their
18 impact on river access for boston residents and potential mitigation measures; and the benefits of
19 access the river park for the isolated brighton and allston neighborhoods; and the effect that
20 improved river park access would have upon the allston and brighton communities. The
21 commission shall consult the department of environmental protection, the executive office of
22 energy and environmental affairs, the massachusetts department of transportation and other
23 entities as appropriate. The commission shall submit a report of its findings and
24 recommendations, together with legislation, if any, necessary to implement said
25 recommendations, by filing the same with the clerks of the house of representatives and the
26 senate, the joint committee on environment, natural resources and agriculture and the house and
27 senate committees on ways and means not later than December 31, 2011.