

HOUSE No. 3754

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Josh S. Cutler

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 resolve:

Resolve providing for an investigation and study by a special commission relative to vegetation removal by public utility companies.

PETITION OF:

| NAME: | DISTRICT/ADDRESS: | DATE ADDED: |
|-----------------------|---------------------|-------------|
| <i>Josh S. Cutler</i> | <i>6th Plymouth</i> | |

HOUSE No. 3754

By Mr. Cutler of Duxbury, a petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Josh S. Cutler for an investigation by a special commission (including members of the General Court) relative to vegetation removal by public utility companies. Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Thirteen

Resolve providing for an investigation and study by a special commission relative to vegetation removal by public utility companies.

1 Resolved, That a special commission is hereby established to make an investigation and
2 study relative to the fiscal and environmental impact that vegetation removal by public utility
3 companies has on the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

4 In order to assist lawmakers in determining if the increased safety and reliability resulting
5 from vegetation removal activities are worth the cost, the commission shall investigate and study
6 the effect that vegetation management activities have on endangered species, including whether
7 the endangered species act should apply to such activities, home values, municipal property tax
8 income, water supply quality, public safety, reliability of the electrical grid, and dangers that will
9 exist if trees are not removed. The special commission shall consist of: 2 members of the Senate
10 or their designee, 1 of whom shall be appointed by the minority leader; 2 members of the House
11 of Representatives or their designee, 1 of whom shall be appointed by the minority leader; 2
12 residents on whose property a public utility company completed vegetation removal activities
13 around transmission lines within the preceding 2 years, 1 of whom shall be appointed by the
14 speaker of the House and 1 of whom shall be appointed by the Senate president; 1 member who
15 shall be appointed by the Massachusetts Municipal Association; 2 representatives of public
16 utility companies; 1 town or city assessor, who shall be appointed by the Massachusetts
17 Association of Assessing Officers; the Chair of the Department of Public Utilities or a designee;
18 the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection or a designee; the
19 Commissioner of the Department of Fish and Game or a designee; the Secretary of the Executive
20 Office of Public Safety or a designee.

21 All appointments shall be made not later than 30 days after the effective date of this
22 resolve. The chairpersons shall meet with the commission not later than 60 days after the
23 effective date of this resolve.

24 Members shall not receive compensation for their services but may receive
25 reimbursement for the reasonable expenses incurred in carrying out their responsibilities as
26 members of the commission.

27 The commission shall report to the General Court the results of its investigation and study
28 and its recommendations, if any, together with drafts of legislation necessary to carry its
29 recommendations into effect by filing the same with the Clerk of the Senate and the Clerk of the
30 House of Representatives not later than July 30, 2014.