

HOUSE No. 730

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Bradley H. Jones, Jr.

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 providing for more efficient wetlands protection by avoiding unnecessary duplication in local wetlands ordinances or bylaws.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Bradley H. Jones, Jr.</i>	<i>20th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/17/2013</i>
<i>George N. Peterson, Jr.</i>	<i>9th Worcester</i>	<i>1/29/2013</i>
<i>Elizabeth A. Poirier</i>	<i>14th Bristol</i>	<i>1/18/2013</i>
<i>Viriato Manuel deMacedo</i>	<i>1st Plymouth</i>	<i>1/25/2013</i>
<i>Donald Humason</i>		
<i>Sheila C. Harrington</i>	<i>1st Middlesex</i>	
<i>Nicholas A. Boldyga</i>	<i>3rd Hampden</i>	
<i>Kimberly N. Ferguson</i>	<i>1st Worcester</i>	
<i>Todd M. Smola</i>	<i>1st Hampden</i>	
<i>Matthew A. Beaton</i>	<i>11th Worcester</i>	

HOUSE No. 730

By Mr. Jones of North Reading, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 730) of Bradley H. Jones, Jr. and others relative to the protection of wetlands under certain ordinances or by-laws in cities and towns. Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 3121 OF 2011-2012.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Thirteen

An Act providing for more efficient wetlands protection by avoiding unnecessary duplication in local wetlands ordinances or bylaws.

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. Section 8C of chapter 40 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2010
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting at the end thereof the following:-

3 A conservation commission may administer and enforce a local wetlands ordinance or
4 by-law that is adopted by a municipality, only to the extent that it imposes standards or other
5 requirements that are more stringent than or otherwise exceed those set forth in section 40 of
6 chapter 131 and the department of environmental protection regulation promulgated pursuant to
7 section 40 of chapter 131, and only if, prior to adoption by a municipality, the department of
8 environmental protection shall review and approve any such proposed local wetlands ordinance
9 or by-law based upon findings that the proposed ordinance or by-law has a generally recognized
10 scientific basis, is a recommended best management practice technique, and is warranted given
11 the unique resources that the local ordinance or by-law identifies as being in need of special or
12 enhanced protection in that municipality.

13 SECTION 2. Ordinances or by-laws effective as of the date of this act shall be
14 enforceable to the extent allowed by section 1 of this Act, provided that, within one year from
15 the effective date of this act, the department of environmental protection makes the findings set
16 forth in section 1 with respect to the particular ordinance or by-law and municipality in question.