

HOUSE No. 3412

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Michelle M. DuBois

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 an effluent water review committee.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Michelle M. DuBois</i>	<i>10th Plymouth</i>	<i>1/16/2015</i>
<i>Carmine L. Gentile</i>	<i>13th Middlesex</i>	<i>12/27/2019</i>
<i>Denise Provost</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>	<i>12/27/2019</i>
<i>Carolyn C. Dykema</i>	<i>8th Middlesex</i>	<i>12/27/2019</i>
<i>Walter F. Timilty</i>	<i>7th Norfolk</i>	<i>12/27/2019</i>
<i>Tom Sannicandro</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>	<i>5/15/2015</i>

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By Ms. DuBois of Brockton, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3412) of Michelle M. DuBois and others for an investigation by a special commission (including members of the General Court) relative to the use and sale of effluent water in cooling towers in the Commonwealth. Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court
(2015-2016)**

An Act establishing an effluent water review committee.

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

1 There shall be a special review committee, pursuant to section 2A of chapter 4 of the
2 General Laws, to investigate and study the use and sale of effluent water in cooling towers,
3 hereinafter referred to as the committee. The committee shall consist of 9 members: 2 members
4 of the house of representatives, 1 of whom shall be the house chair of the joint committee on
5 environment, natural resources and agriculture; 2 members of the senate, 1 of whom shall be the
6 senate chair of the joint committee on environment, natural resources and agriculture; 1 member
7 to be appointed by the Attorney General, who shall have a special focus in consumer protection;
8 and 4 members to be appointed by the governor, 1 of whom shall be a certified wastewater
9 treatment plant operator and member of New England Interstate Water Pollution Control
10 Commission, 1 of whom shall be a professor from an institution of higher learning with expertise
11 in the area of environmental science, 1 of whom shall be nominated by the commissioner of
12 environmental protection and shall have extensive knowledge of the National Pollution

13 Discharge Elimination System permitting process, and 1 of whom shall be nominated by the
14 Taunton River Watershed Alliance. If a vacancy occurs, a new member representing the same
15 agency or group shall be appointed.

16 The committee shall hold at least 1 public meeting that provides an overview of the
17 potential environmental risks and values, potential health risks, and cost benchmarking for
18 expanded use of effluent that is vaporized in cooling towers.

19 The committee shall have the following responsibilities: (1) to compile data on the
20 current, proposed, and potential uses of effluent water in cooling towers; (2) to identify instances
21 where the use of effluent water in cooling towers could negatively impacts public health,
22 environment, reliable wastewater treatment and the National Pollution Discharge Elimination
23 System permit or renewal process; and (3) to ensure that treatment guidelines and associated
24 costs for the returned wastewater, which is not evaporated by the cooling tower, are adequate and
25 the costs of expanded treatment of wastewater from cooling towers properly reflect the interests
26 of municipal sewerage rate payers.

27 No later than 13 months after the date of its first meeting, the committee shall submit a
28 report, together with drafts of legislation or regulations necessary to carry out its
29 recommendations, to the governor, speaker of the house of representatives, the president of the
30 senate and the clerks of the house of representatives and the senate, which shall include a
31 summary of its findings and all relevant information relied up by the committee.