

HOUSE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Ruth B. Balsler, (BY REQUEST)

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 special commission to study the feasibility of developing up to three-story buildings over the Massachusetts Turnpike.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Thomas Sheff</i>	<i>454 Dudley Rd Newton, MA 02459-2813</i>	<i>1/7/2016</i>

HOUSE No.

By Ms. Balsler of Newton (by request), a petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Thomas Sheff for an investigation by a special commission (including members of the General Court) relative to the feasibility of development over the Massachusetts Turnpike in the city of Newton. House Rules.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act establishing a special commission to study the feasibility of developing up to three-story buildings over the Massachusetts Turnpike.

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

1 A. There shall be a commission to study the feasibility of development over Route
2 90, specifically as it passes through the city of Newton.

3 B. The Commission shall consist of the Secretary of Housing and Economic
4 Development and the Secretary of Transportation or their respective designees, who shall serve
5 as co-chairs of the commission; the state comptroller or the comptroller's designee; the executive
6 directors of the Massachusetts Development Financing Agency and the Massachusetts Housing
7 Finance Agency or their designees; the Mayor of Newton, or his designee; one member of the
8 House, who shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House; one member of the Senate, who
9 shall be appointed by the President of the Senate; the executive director of the Citizens' Housing
10 and Planning Association, or her designee; and the executive director of the Community
11 Economic Development Assistance Corporation, or his designee.

12 C. The Commission shall determine the technical, legal, and financial feasibility of
13 developing up to three-story buildings over Route 90 in the City of Newton. The Commission
14 shall study the feasibility of constructing these buildings for commercial uses, residential,
15 including but not limited to affordable housing uses, and mixed use properties. The commission
16 shall seek in its deliberations input from local businesses and potential developers. The
17 commission shall evaluate the experience of Massachusetts cities that already have development
18 over Route 90, including but not limited to the City of Boston, evaluating the performance of
19 similar commercial properties over major highways. The commission shall evaluate the
20 experience of cities in other states with similar developments over major highways.

21 D. The Commission shall hold at least one public hearing in the City of Newton.

22 E. The Commission shall publish its findings and recommendations, together with
23 drafts of legislation, if any, necessary to carry those recommendations into effect, in a written
24 report not later than 2 years after the effective date of this act. The report shall be published on
25 the official website of the Commonwealth, and shall be contemporaneously filed with the House
26 and Senate Committees on Ways and Means, and the House and Senate Chairs of the Joint
27 Committee on Housing, and the House and Senate Chairs of the Committee on Community
28 Development and Small Business.