

**SENATE . . . . . No. 1753**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***Sal N. DiDomenico***

*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 relative to affordable housing energy efficiency.**

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Sal N. DiDomenico</i>	<i>Middlesex and Suffolk</i>
<i>Benjamin Swan</i>	<i>11th Hampden</i>
<i>Joseph W. McGonagle, Jr.</i>	<i>28th Middlesex</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>
<i>David M. Rogers</i>	<i>24th Middlesex</i>
<i>Linda Dorcena Forry</i>	<i>First Suffolk</i>
<i>Denise Provost</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>
<i>Bruce E. Tarr</i>	<i>First Essex and Middlesex</i>
<i>Marc R. Pacheco</i>	<i>First Plymouth and Bristol</i>
<i>Timothy J. Toomey, Jr.</i>	<i>26th Middlesex</i>

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By Mr. DiDomenico, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1753) of Sal N. DiDomenico, Benjamin Swan, Joseph W. McGonagle, Jr., James B. Eldridge and other members of the General Court for legislation relative to affordable housing energy efficiency. Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy.

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[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE SENATE, NO. 1574 OF 2013-2014.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court  
(2015-2016)**  
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An Act relative to affordable housing energy efficiency.

*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. The department of energy resources, in consultation with the department of  
2 housing and community development, shall establish a program to assist owners of multifamily  
3 low and moderate income rental housing with the purchase of energy efficient items for  
4 residential building modifications. For the purposes of this program, energy efficient items shall  
5 include home insulation; new window installation; advanced programmable thermostats; micro-  
6 combined heat and power systems; fuel efficient furnaces, boilers or controls; solar or fuel  
7 efficient domestic hot water systems; materials for insulation or sealing of a duct, attic,  
8 basement, rim joint or wall; pipe insulation for heating systems; or other items for use in a  
9 residential dwelling that reduce energy consumption.

10 In establishing the program, the department shall develop a list of qualified state or  
11 federally chartered banking institutions or credit unions that do business in the commonwealth  
12 and that are governed by chapter 167 or 171 of the General Laws as participatory lending  
13 institutions. For the purposes of this section, a qualified lending institution shall include a  
14 lending institution that is certified by the executive office of energy and environmental affairs  
15 and which shall offer zero and low interest loans for the purpose of enhancing the energy  
16 efficiency of a residential building or multiple dwellings and shall include the Massachusetts  
17 Housing Finance Agency and the Massachusetts Housing Partnership. The program shall be  
18 funded pursuant to section 19 of chapter 25 of the General Laws. Not less than \$4,000,000 shall  
19 be made available annually to assist participating financial institutions in offering these loan  
20 products by or through interest rate write downs or other credit enhancement features.

21 The department of energy resources, in consultation with the department of housing and  
22 community development, shall establish the rules and guidelines to carry out the purposes of this  
23 section, including, but not limited to, establishing applicant criteria, application forms and  
24 procedures, energy efficiency product requirements and lending institution tracking and  
25 reporting requirements. The department shall submit a report detailing the rules and guidelines  
26 and the program results to the joint committee on telecommunications, utilities and energy and  
27 the joint committee on housing no less than every two years.

28 SECTION 2. For a program to be administered by the Massachusetts Housing Finance  
29 Agency to be known as the Housing Efficiency and Affordability Program to provide grants, low  
30 interest loans, credit enhancements, no interest loans, or other financial assistance for the  
31 purchase of energy efficient items in new low and moderate income housing sponsored by for-  
32 profit and non-profit organizations; provided that said applicants demonstrate that the building

33 design incorporates energy conservation measures that exceed those required by the state  
34 building code by at least fifteen per cent or are otherwise designed to comply with energy star  
35 standards; provided further that said applicants demonstrate that installation of the energy  
36 efficiency measures reduced the energy consumption in said housing; provided further that any  
37 costs reduced by the energy efficient items benefit the tenants of said housing; provided further  
38 that not more than two per cent of total funding may be expended to cover the actual costs of  
39 administering the program; provided further that the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative  
40 shall provide \$5,000,000 to match the amount appropriated herein with funds from the  
41 Massachusetts Renewable Energy Trust established pursuant to section E of chapter 40J of the  
42 general laws....\$5,000,000