

HOUSE No. 3405

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Gailanne M. Cariddi

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 Massachusetts Cultural Corridors.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Gailanne M. Cariddi

1st Berkshire

Ann-Margaret Ferrante

5th Essex

HOUSE No. 3405

By Ms. Cariddi of North Adams, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3405) of Gailanne M. Cariddi and Ann-Margaret Ferrante for legislation to establish cultural corridors. Tourism, Arts and Cultural Development.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninetieth General Court
(2017-2018)**

An Act establishing Massachusetts Cultural Corridors.

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. Chapter 10 of the general laws as appearing in the 2014 official edition is
2 hereby amended by inserting after Section 58A the following section:-

3 Section 58B. There shall be .

4 (a) For the purposes of this section, the following words shall have the following
5 meanings:-

6 “Cultural Corridor” a linear geographic expanse consisting of a significant cluster of
7 prominent cultural institutions which collectively anchor and drive the immediate local economy
8 by further aligning existing enterprises and nurturing future cultural, historical, educational,
9 creative and hospitality ventures.

10 (b) A cultural corridor shall be a geographical area of the commonwealth with a
11 concentration of cultural facilities located within it. Cultural corridors shall attract artists and

12 cultural enterprises to a region, encourage business and job development, establish tourist
13 destinations, preserve and reuse historic buildings, enhance property values and foster local
14 cultural development.

15 (c) The overall purpose of the cultural corridor designation is to recognize the unique
16 cultural and recreational resources along the corridor. Specific purposes include the preservation
17 of the cultural character of the corridor, improvement of highway safety features, expansion of
18 economic opportunities for businesses and municipalities located along the corridor and
19 development of a balanced tourism program.

20 (d) Executive branch agencies, constitutional offices and quasi-governmental agencies
21 including, but not limited to, the council and historic preservation programs, shall review and
22 revise regulations and other economic development tools, including the evaluative criteria of
23 such historic preservation programs, in order to support and encourage the development and
24 success of state-designated cultural corridors.

25 (e) The department of transportation shall erect and maintain suitable markers bearing the
26 designation herein in compliance with the standards of the department and any existing historic
27 preservation guidelines or statutes.

28 SECTION 2. Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 1 herein, the area along or near
29 state highway 2 from Field Park in the town of Williamstown and the intersection of state
30 highway 2 and Beaver Street east of the city of North Adams city center as well as the downtown
31 districts of the town Williamstown including Spring Street and Water Street and the city of North
32 Adams including Main Street and Eagle Street and the area along state highway 8 including
33 Curran Memorial Highway in the city of North Adams and Howland Avenue and Park Street in

34 the town of Adams to the corner of state highway 8 and Grove Street south of the town of Adams
35 town center shall be designated and known as the North Berkshire Cultural Corridor.

36 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its passage.