HOUSE No. 3562

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

William Driscoll

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 to study the health of the Blue Hills Forest and ecology to inform long-term reservation management.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
William Driscoll	7th Norfolk	1/20/2017
Denise Provost	27th Middlesex	
Bruce J. Ayers	1st Norfolk	1/30/2017
Mike Connolly	26th Middlesex	2/1/2017
Paul McMurtry	11th Norfolk	2/1/2017
Louis L. Kafka	8th Norfolk	2/2/2017
William N. Brownsberger	Second Suffolk and Middlesex	
Daniel J. Ryan	2nd Suffolk	
Natalie Higgins	4th Worcester	
Marjorie C. Decker	25th Middlesex	
Angelo M. Scaccia	14th Suffolk	2/2/2017
Kenneth I. Gordon	21st Middlesex	
James M. Cantwell	4th Plymouth	
Daniel Cullinane	12th Suffolk	
John F. Keenan	Norfolk and Plymouth	
Dylan Fernandes	Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket	
Joan Meschino	3rd Plymouth	

Michelle M. DuBois	10th Plymouth	1/31/2017
Alice Hanlon Peisch	14th Norfolk	
John H. Rogers	12th Norfolk	
Sean Garballey	23rd Middlesex	
Jack Lewis	7th Middlesex	
William L. Crocker, Jr.	2nd Barnstable	
Michael F. Rush	Norfolk and Suffolk	
Daniel Cahill	10th Essex	4/6/2017

HOUSE No. 3562

By Mr. Driscoll of Milton, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3562) of William Driscoll and others for legislation to authorize an independent scientific organization to study and survey of the forest, wildlife and environmental health of the Blue Hills Reservation. Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture.

The Commonwealth of Alassachusetts

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

An Act to study the health of the Blue Hills Forest and ecology to inform long-term reservation management.

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

There shall be conducted an independent, scientific study and survey of the forest,

2 wildlife and environmental health of the Blue Hills Reservation, which shall focus on: (i)

potential reasons for the declining forest health, (ii) the deer population and the effectiveness of

hunting as a means of culling large deer populations, (iii) the health of plant and insect life on the

reservation and potential factors contributing to any decline in plant or insect health, (iv) the

effect of ecological changes and climate change on the health of the forest and the plant and

animal species, and (v) proposed solutions to ensure improvements in the forest, wildlife and

environmental health of the reservation.

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The study and survey shall be conducted by an independent scientific organization to be selected by the department of conservation and recreation and the department of fisheries and wildlife. The departments shall choose such organization to conduct the study and survey within

6 months after the effective date of this act, and the independent scientific organization shall report its findings and data in the form of a report and survey, which shall include proposed solutions and the costs associated with such solutions, to the department of conservation and recreation and the department of fisheries and wildlife within 1 year following the start of the study.

There shall be a moratorium on the continuation and further implementation of the blue hills reservation deer management program and any controlled deer hunting in the reservation until the findings of such study and survey have been reported to the department of conservation and recreation and the department of fisheries and wildlife, and such departments have reviewed the findings and proposed updated solutions based on such findings.