

HOUSE No. 4273

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, March 6, 2018.

The committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture to whom was referred the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 440) of Robert M. Koczera and others for legislation to establish the green banks fund within the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center, reports recommending that the accompanying bill (House, No. 4273) ought to pass.

For the committee,

SMITTY PIGNATELLI.

HOUSE No. 4273

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act establishing a green banks program.

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 established and placed within the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center,
2 hereinafter in this section referred to as the center, a fund to be known as the Massachusetts
3 Green Banks Fund, hereinafter in this section referred to as the fund, to be held by the center
4 separate and apart from its other funds, to finance the activities of emerging clean energy
5 companies and energy efficiency projects. The purpose of the fund is to create reliable, flexible,
6 low cost financing for renewable energy and energy efficiency projects in order to reduce
7 “financing gaps” that occur when creditworthy projects are unable to reach their intended scale
8 due to a lack of funding options. The fund shall be used to provide loans, loan guarantees, and
9 other forms of financing for clean energy projects with the goals of abating climate change,
10 boosting energy efficiency and encouraging the growth of clean energy businesses in the
11 Commonwealth.

12 The fund shall be credited by any appropriations, bond proceeds or other monies
13 authorized by the general court and specifically designated to be credited thereto, such additional
14 funds as are subject to the direction and control of the center, any fees and charges imposed

15 relative to the making of qualifies investments as defined by the center, any funds secured or
16 held by the fund, and any other monies, contributions or other financial conveyances which may
17 be available to the center for the purpose of the fund from any other sources or sources, including
18 any local, state or federal governmental entities, pension funds, royalties, individuals,
19 corporations, foundations, non-profit or other private sector entities or through participation in a
20 multi-state, national, or international green bank financing program. Any revenues, deposits,
21 receipts, or funds received through the receipt of royalties, interest, dividends, or the sale of
22 equity instruments shall be deposited in the fund, and shall be available to the center for the
23 purposes described in this section, without further appropriation. All available monies in the
24 fund that are unexpended at the end of each fiscal year shall not revert to the General Fund and
25 shall be available for expenditures in the subsequent fiscal year.

26 For the purposes of the Green Banks fund, the center shall act as the central entity and
27 coordinating organization of clean energy initiatives that advance the goal of energy efficiency
28 and energy independence on behalf of the commonwealth and to (1) work in collaboration with
29 governmental entities, non-profits and foundations, and private-sector entities to promote and
30 implement flexible, affordable financing options to advance the commonwealth's interests and
31 encourage investments in renewable energy and energy efficiency projects; (2) strengthen
32 economic development , employment opportunities and commercial and industrial sectors in the
33 field of clean energy and energy efficiency; (3) to provide bridge financing to colleges,
34 universities, independent research institutions, nonprofit entities, public instrumentalities,
35 companies and other entities for the receipt of grants or loans as awarded or to be awarded by the
36 federal government, industry or other sources; (4) to make qualified grants to certified clean

37 energy companies or entities for site remediation, preparation, and ancillary infrastructure
38 improvement projects; and; (5) to otherwise further the public purposes set forth herein.

39 The chief financial and accounting officer of the center shall be in charge of its funds,
40 books of account and accounting records. No funds shall be transferred by the center without the
41 approvable of the board and the signatures of the chief financial and accounting officer and the
42 treasurer, as appointed by the board.

43 Upon the creation of this fund, the center shall establish a committee to report within 180
44 days to the House and Senate Committees on Ways and Means and to the Joint Committee on
45 Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy any suggested legislation to further enhance the
46 establishment of a Green Bank for the Commonwealth to further the goals of this section.