

HOUSE No. 4748

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Shawn Dooley

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 create a commission to investigate the advertising practices of the solar energy industry.

PETITION OF:

| NAME: | DISTRICT/ADDRESS: | DATE ADDED: |
|---------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| <i>Shawn Dooley</i> | <i>9th Norfolk</i> | <i>11/21/2017</i> |

HOUSE No. 4748

By Mr. Dooley of Norfolk, a petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Shawn Dooley for legislation to establish a commission (including members of the General Court) to investigate the advertising practices of the solar energy industry. Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act to create a commission to investigate the advertising practices of the solar energy industry.

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. (a) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, there shall
2 be established a special commission to study and report on the advertising practices of the solar
3 energy industry. The commission shall be composed of 7 members: 2 members of the House of
4 Representatives, 1 of whom shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House and 1 of whom shall
5 be appointed by the Minority Leader of the House; 2 members of the Senate, 1 of whom shall be
6 appointed by the Senate President and 1 of whom shall be appointed by the Minority Leader of
7 the Senate; and 3 members appointed by the Governor; 1 of whom shall be a representative of
8 the solar energy industry, 1 of whom shall be a representative of the utility companies, and 1 of
9 whom shall be an expert in the area of advertising and marketing law.

10 The scope of the commission shall include, but shall not be limited to studying the
11 advertising practices of businesses and the major players in the solar energy industry,
12 discovering any fraudulent or deceptive advertising or trade practices carried out by players in

13 the solar energy industry, and making recommendations on changes, legislative and otherwise, to
14 ensure that prospective and current consumers of the solar energy industry are adequately
15 protected.

16 (b) The commission shall report the results of its investigation and its recommendations
17 by filing a report with the Clerk of the Senate; the Clerk of the House of Representatives; the
18 Department of Energy Resources; the Joint Committee on Consumer Protection and Licensure;
19 and the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy no later than one year
20 after the first meeting of the commission is convened.

21 (c) The commission shall conduct its first meeting no later than 60 days after the effective
22 date of this act.