

SENATE No. 1141

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Jason M. Lewis, (BY REQUEST)

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 establishment of, and definition of, a Middlesex Regional Commission.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Vincent Lawrence Dixon

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

*60 Lake Street – Unit N, Winchester, Mass.
01890*

SENATE No. 1141

By Mr. Lewis (by request), a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1141) of Vincent Lawrence Dixon for legislation to study establishment of, and definition of, a Middlesex Regional Commission. Municipalities and Regional Government.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act to study establishment of, and definition of, a Middlesex Regional Commission.

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 Massachusetts General Laws are hereby amended by inserting the
2 following new chapter:

3 An Act to study establishment of, and definition of, a Middlesex Regional Commission.

4 1.) A Middlesex Working Group (MWG), to examine, and specify, the concept, and
5 recommendations regarding a Middlesex Regional Commission, shall be established.

6 2.) Whereas, it appears, and is substantially believed by many individuals, local
7 governments, organizations, and groups, that various undesirable pressures exist, and have been
8 created in many parts of, and much of the region, known as Middlesex County, made up of 54
9 municipalities.

10 3.) Whereas, it is thought that these pressures include negative impacts from what is
11 called overdevelopment: including reduction, and loss of wetlands, flood plains, watersheds,

12 permeable surfaces, open space, open land, in certain areas, loss of farm, and other agricultural
13 land; unplanned pressures on local school district enrollments and budgets; and poor quality of
14 construction, and infill construction.

15 4.) Therefore, this Act is established, to create a study group called the Middlesex
16 Working Group (MWG), to consider the creation of a general beneficial, and supervisory body,
17 for the 54 municipalities, and people, of Middlesex County, to be known as the Middlesex
18 Regional Commission, composed of a variety of members.

19 4a.) The Special Commission, named the Middlesex Working Group (MWG), is
20 authorized, to be created, referencing the manner, among other reference points, in which the
21 Cape Cod Commission, has been established, and operates; to report back to the public, and the
22 General Court, in a timely manner of between 12, and 24 months.

23 4b.) The MWG shall be composed of representatives from each of the 12 cities, and 42
24 towns of Middlesex County. Each of the 54 municipalities shall nominate one representative.
25 Once this body is convened, it may consider also the sub-definitions of Middlesex North, and
26 Middlesex South, as either separate districts, or sub-districts of the contemplated Middlesex
27 Regional Commission (MRC). The MWG may also identify, recruit, and otherwise obtain useful
28 additional advice, testimony, and other consultation, as seems needed, and proper.

29 5.) The Middlesex Working Group (MWG), shall consider the definition of goals, for the
30 Middlesex Regional Commission (MRC) to include a wide range, including, in part:

31 Additional protections of the natural environment, including wetlands, floodplains,
32 watersheds, permeable surfaces, open space, open land, and agricultural uses.

33 Enhanced construction standards, welcoming more neighborhood, and community-
34 friendly contractors; requiring more durable and substantial forms of building construction, more
35 environmentally responsible design, including solar, geothermal, and other effective, and
36 responsible aspects.

37 Consultation, and evaluation with, local municipal school districts, on their expectations,
38 for advance enrollment projections of at least five, ten, and twenty years, in establishing potential
39 trends for more fully services integrated communities.

40 Regional housing goals, objectives, and standards, apportioned across the regional
41 commission district of the Middlesex Regional District.

42 The Commission goals, are to be specifically oriented to support local community-
43 friendly values.