

**SENATE . . . . . No. 1615**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***Michael J. Rodrigues***

*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 relative to solar and wind property tax exemptions.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Michael J. Rodrigues</i>	<i>First Bristol and Plymouth</i>	
<i>Mark C. Montigny</i>	<i>Second Bristol and Plymouth</i>	<i>1/24/2017</i>
<i>Susan Williams Gifford</i>	<i>2nd Plymouth</i>	<i>2/3/2017</i>
<i>Christopher M. Markey</i>	<i>9th Bristol</i>	<i>2/3/2017</i>
<i>Alan Silvia</i>	<i>7th Bristol</i>	<i>2/3/2017</i>

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By Mr. Rodrigues, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1615) of Michael J. Rodrigues, Mark C. Montigny, Susan Williams Gifford, Christopher M. Markey and others for legislation relative to solar and wind property tax exemptions. Revenue.

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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

An Act relative to solar and wind property tax exemptions.

*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. Section 5 of chapter 59 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2014  
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out clause Forty-fifth and inserting in place  
3 thereof the following clause:-

4           Forty-fifth, Any solar or wind powered system that is capable of producing not more than  
5 125 per cent of the annual energy needs of the residential real property upon which it is located.

6           Any other solar or wind powered system capable of producing energy shall be taxable  
7 unless the owner has executed an agreement for a payment in lieu of taxes with the city or town  
8 where the system is located. The chief executive officer, as defined in section 7 of chapter 4, of  
9 a city or town may execute any such agreement for a payment in lieu of taxes with the owner of a  
10 solar or wind powered system in the municipality where the solar or wind powered system is  
11 located.

12 Unless otherwise provided by such agreement, (1) a notice of the payment in lieu of tax  
13 owed for each fiscal year shall be mailed to the owner and due on the dates by which a tax  
14 assessed under this chapter would be payable without interest; (2) all provisions of law regarding  
15 billing and collecting a tax assessed under this chapter shall apply to the payment in lieu of taxes,  
16 including the payment of interest; and (3) upon issuance of the notice, the owner shall have the  
17 remedies provided by section 59 and section 64 and all other applicable provisions of law for the  
18 abatement and appeal of taxes upon real estate.

19 Any exemption under this clause shall be allowed only for a period of 20 years from the  
20 date of installation of the system; provided, however, that no exemption shall be allowed for any  
21 year within that period where the solar or wind powered system is not capable of producing  
22 energy as required by this clause. Each owner shall annually, on or before March 1, make a  
23 declaration under oath to the assessors regarding the system and power generated for the  
24 previous calendar year. This clause shall not apply to projects developed under section 1A of  
25 chapter 164.

26 SECTION 2. Clause Forty-fifth of section 5 of chapter 59 of the General Laws shall not  
27 apply to solar and wind powered systems for which the owner has a signed agreement with the  
28 city or town to make a payment in lieu of taxes under section 38H(b) of chapter as of the  
29 effective date of this act.

30 SECTION 3. Section 1 shall apply to taxes assessed for fiscal years beginning on or after  
31 July 1, 2017.