

HOUSE No. 3922

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Joseph W. McGonagle, Jr.

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 environmental justice communities.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Joseph W. McGonagle, Jr.</i>	<i>28th Middlesex</i>
<i>RoseLee Vincent</i>	<i>16th Suffolk</i>
<i>Carlos González</i>	<i>10th Hampden</i>
<i>Stephan Hay</i>	<i>3rd Worcester</i>
<i>Andres X. Vargas</i>	<i>3rd Essex</i>

HOUSE No. 3922

By Mr. McGonagle of Everett, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3922) of Joseph W. McGonagle, Jr., and others relative to an environmental justice policy. Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court
(2019-2020)**

An Act relative to environmental justice communities.

Whereas, The deferred operation of this act would tend to defeat its purpose, which is to establish forthwith an environmental justice policy, therefore it is hereby declared to be an emergency law, necessary for the immediate preservation of the public convenience.

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. Chapter 21A of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the
2 following section:-

3 Section 28. (a) “Environmental justice population area”, a neighborhood whose annual
4 median household income is equal to or less than 65 per cent of the statewide median or whose
5 population is made up 25 percent individuals who are minorities, foreign-born, or lacking
6 English language proficiency.

7 “Foreign-born”, individuals who identify themselves on federal census forms as non U.S.
8 citizens at birth.

9 “Lacking English language proficiency”, households that, according to federal census
10 forms, do not include an adult proficient in English.

11 “Neighborhood”, a census block group as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau, except
12 individuals who live in college dormitories or people under formally authorized, supervised care
13 or custody.

14 (b) The office shall establish an environmental justice policy to identify and assist
15 environmental justice population areas to ensure meaningful involvement in environmental
16 decision making.

17 (c) Cities or towns where not less than 75 per the city or town’s total population reside in
18 an environmental justice population area shall receive preference in competitive funding
19 opportunities administered by the office.

20 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect 30 days after its passage.