

HOUSE No. 1809

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Christina A. Minicucci

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 establish a Merrimack Valley River district council.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Christina A. Minicucci</i>	<i>14th Essex</i>	<i>1/17/2019</i>
<i>Linda Dean Campbell</i>	<i>15th Essex</i>	<i>2/1/2019</i>
<i>Tami L. Gouveia</i>	<i>14th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/1/2019</i>

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By Ms. Minicucci of North Andover, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1809) of Christina A. Minicucci, Linda Dean Campbell and Tami L. Gouveia for legislation to establish a Merrimack Valley River district council consisting of membership from the cities and towns along the Massachusetts portion of said river. Municipalities and Regional Government.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act to establish a Merrimack Valley River district council.

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 is hereby established Merrimack River District Council consisting of one member
2 to be chosen from the board of selectmen or town council or the mayor, whichever is applicable
3 or their respective designees from each of the following cities and towns: Amesbury, Andover,
4 Billerica, Chelmsford, Dracut. Groveland, Haverhill, Lawrence, Lowell, Merrimac, Methuen.
5 Newbury, Newburyport, North Andover, Salisbury, Tewksbury, Tyngsborough, Westford, and
6 West Newbury who shall be voting members, and the following non-voting members: the
7 executive directors of the Greater Lawrence, Lowell, and Haverhill Sanitary Districts or their
8 designees and the president of the Merrimack Valley Watershed Council, MVPC. The
9 Merrimack River District Council shall include in its review of and investigation, but not be
10 limited to, the use of the Merrimack River, the improvement of available water resources for the
11 district and methods for preserving, protecting, and increasing such resources; water
12 conservation, water quality; appropriate methods to manage and develop the river and its related

13 land uses; stream flow; treatment facilities for sewage; methods for protecting water quality and
14 quantity; fisheries and wildlife development and maintenance; recreation; cooperative efforts
15 among cities and towns along the Massachusetts portion of the Merrimack River; cooperative
16 efforts between the Commonwealth and the state of New Hampshire regarding the river; future
17 water supply needs of the Commonwealth; methods for protecting the purity of the water and
18 the costs thereof, and may make recommendations on these and other river-related issues to the
19 department of environmental protection, the Merrimack River Legislative delegation of the
20 General Court, and any municipality within or without the boundaries of the Council's member
21 communities. The Council shall file report with these recommendations within fifteen months
22 of enactment of this provision. The Council shall elect chair from among its voting members,
23 and shall adopt such rules of procedure as necessary for the performance of its duties (consistent
24 with the provisions of 37 Chapter 30A). The council shall receive technical assistance from the
25 Water Resources Commission and the department of environmental protection. The council shall
26 also be eligible to receive grants from the state or any other governmental or private entity but
27 shall report annually to its member communities all receipts and expenditures.