

SENATE No. 433

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

William N. Brownsberger

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 establishing the commission for a climate-ready commonwealth.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>William N. Brownsberger</i>	<i>Second Suffolk and Middlesex</i>	
<i>Mayor Martin J. Walsh</i>	<i>Office of Mayor Martin J. Walsh, 1 City Hall Square, Suite 500, Boston, MA</i>	
<i>Lori A. Ehrlich</i>	<i>8th Essex</i>	<i>1/25/2019</i>
<i>Michael F. Rush</i>	<i>Norfolk and Suffolk</i>	<i>2/1/2019</i>
<i>Michael O. Moore</i>	<i>Second Worcester</i>	<i>2/1/2019</i>

SENATE No. 433

By Mr. Brownsberger, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 433) of William N. Brownsberger, Mayor Martin J. Walsh, Lori A. Ehrlich, Michael F. Rush and others for legislation to establish the commission for a climate-ready commonwealth. Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act establishing the commission for a climate-ready commonwealth.

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 commission for a climate-ready commonwealth is hereby established
2 to advise the general court on how to fund, implement, and prioritize climate resilience and
3 climate adaptation infrastructure projects that will protect against and avoid risks posed and
4 expenses incurred by climate change, including sea-level rise, coastal flooding, intense
5 precipitation, inland flooding, heat waves, and drought, and which entity the general court should
6 charge with the responsibility of overseeing and coordinating said resiliency and adaptation
7 projects.

8 SECTION 2. The commission shall consist of up to 13 members, including a chair. The
9 members shall include the mayors or town managers, or their designees, of seven municipalities,
10 four of which shall be coastal municipalities. In addition to the members representing the
11 aforementioned municipalities, the secretary of the executive office of energy and environmental
12 affairs and the commissioner of the department of revenue shall each serve as a member of the

13 commission ex officio. Each of the remaining four members shall be appointed by the governor
14 and shall have expertise in one or more of the following areas: climate change and sea-level rise,
15 wetlands and waterways policy and regulation, transportation planning, public finance and
16 administration, and land use or development. Each member, including the chair, shall serve,
17 without compensation, in an advisory capacity, until the report referenced in Section 6 is
18 delivered, whereupon the commission shall disband.

19 SECTION 3. The commission shall, at a minimum, investigate the following topics: (i)
20 whether the commonwealth should be responsible for, or have oversight of, climate change
21 resiliency and adaptation infrastructure proposed to protect impacted communities from the
22 effects of climate change and planning for, funding, and implementing said infrastructure; (ii)
23 whether the commonwealth should create a new authority, agency, or department to be
24 responsible for, or provide oversight of, funding, planning for, and implementing climate change
25 resiliency and adaptation infrastructure or expand the powers and responsibilities of existing
26 authorities, agencies, or departments of the commonwealth; (iii) identify sources of funding for
27 the planning, construction, and maintenance of climate change resiliency and adaptation
28 infrastructure projects; (iv) develop standards and metrics to award funding for the planning,
29 construction, and maintenance of climate change resilience and adaptation infrastructure
30 projects; and (v) identify existing legal, regulatory, financial, and governance barriers to
31 expediently planning for and constructing climate change resiliency and adaptation infrastructure
32 projects and provide recommendations to overcome said barriers, including proposed changes to
33 existing laws and regulations.

34 SECTION 4. The commission may create committees and working groups to inform the
35 commission's investigation of the topics referenced in Section 3 and the commission may

36 conduct its work and provide its report and recommendations referenced in Section 6 in phases.
37 The commission, its committees and its working groups may procure services, including
38 consulting services, and otherwise involve experts, stakeholders, and members of the public.

39 SECTION 5. The commission shall be supported by staff from the executive office of
40 energy and environmental affairs and the Massachusetts department of environmental protection.

41 SECTION 6. The commission shall provide its report and recommendations to the joint
42 committee on environment, natural resources and agriculture of the general court within eighteen
43 months of the date on which the thirteenth member has been appointed to the commission.

44 SECTION 7. This act shall take effect upon its passage.