

SENATE No. 434

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 a special commission to improve the Department of Conservation and Recreation.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

William N. Brownsberger

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Second Suffolk and Middlesex

SENATE No. 434

By Mr. Brownsberger, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 434) of William N. Brownsberger for legislation to establish a special commission to improve the Department of Conservation and Recreation . Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act establishing a special commission to improve the Department of Conservation and Recreation.

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. There shall be a special commission established to investigate and study
2 the department of conservation and recreation and to make recommendations to strengthen the
3 management, operations and asset condition of the natural, cultural and recreational resources of
4 the commonwealth.

5 The commission shall consist of the following persons, or their designees: the secretary
6 of the executive office of energy and environmental affairs, who shall serve as chairperson; the
7 commissioner of the department of conservation and recreation; the chair of the department of
8 conservation and recreation stewardship council; 3 members of the house of representatives, 1 of
9 whom shall be the house chair of the committee on environment, natural resources and
10 agriculture, 1 of whom shall be a member of the minority party to be appointed by the minority
11 leader of the house; 3 members of the senate, 1 of whom shall be the senate chair of the
12 committee on environment, natural resources and agriculture, 1 of whom shall be a member of

13 the minority party to be appointed by the minority leader of the senate; 5 members appointed by
14 the governor, 2 of whom shall be representatives of park friends groups; a representative of the
15 Environmental League of Massachusetts; a representative of the Massachusetts Chapter of the
16 Appalachian Mountain Club; a representative of the Trust for Public Land; a representative of
17 the Trustees of Reservations. No fewer than 8 members shall reside within the urban parks
18 district defined in section 33 of chapter 92.

19 The investigation shall include, but not be limited to: (i) examine the current
20 responsibilities and structure of the department of conservation and recreation and the
21 stewardship council of the department of conservation and recreation; (ii) determine whether
22 departments, divisions, assets or operations of the department of conservation and recreation
23 should be transferred to other agencies, departments, municipalities or entities with special
24 consideration given to urban parks and roadways; (iii) review the capital and operating budgets
25 of the department of conservation and recreation, analyze at a component level the relationship
26 of cost to value, and make recommendations as to how to: (a) improve transparency and
27 accountability for project choice; (b) maximize return on the commonwealth's investment in the
28 department of conservation and recreation; and (c) project planning and project execution, with
29 special consideration given to the possibility of enhancing the powers of the stewardship council.

30 The commission may solicit public input through public hearings and testimony.

31 The commission shall report and make recommendations resulting from its study to the
32 governor, house and senate committees on ways and means, and the joint committee on
33 environment, natural resources and agriculture on or before December 1, 2020.

34 SECTION 2. To provide for the special commission, the sum set forth in section 2A for
35 the several purposes and subject to the conditions specified in this act, are hereby made
36 available; provided, however, that the amounts specified may be adjusted to facilitate projects
37 authorized in this act. This sum shall be in addition to any amounts previously appropriated and
38 made available for the purposes of the item. The department of conservation and recreation and
39 the executive office of energy and environmental affairs shall provide access to information as
40 necessary for the work of the commission.

41 SECTION 2A.

42 EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

43 Office of the Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs

44 2000-0100 \$500,000