

HOUSE No. 959

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

James M. Kelcourse and Lenny Mirra

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 modern sewage infrastructure.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>James M. Kelcourse</i>	<i>1st Essex</i>	<i>2/17/2021</i>
<i>Lenny Mirra</i>	<i>2nd Essex</i>	<i>2/17/2021</i>

HOUSE No. 959

By Messrs. Kelcourse of Amesbury and Mirra of Georgetown, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 959) of James M. Kelcourse and Lenny Mirra for legislation to establish a special commission to study the feasibility and costs associated with examining and identifying the need to replace sewage infrastructure along the Merrimack River, Mystic River, and Connecticut River within the Commonwealth. Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Second General Court
(2021-2022)**

An Act relative to modern sewage infrastructure.

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. (a) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, there is
2 hereby established a special commission to study the feasibility and costs associated with
3 examining and identifying the need to replace sewage infrastructure along the Merrimack River,
4 Mystic River, and Connecticut River within the commonwealth. The commissions review shall
5 include, but not limited to: (i) current health of sewage infrastructure; (ii) monitoring of water
6 quality data; and (iii) identifying needs or upgrades to the outdated infrastructure of said rivers.

7 (b)The commission shall consist of: the commissioner of environmental protection, or
8 their designee, who shall serve as chair; the director of the Massachusetts emergency
9 management agency, or their designee; 1 member appointed by the Merrimack River Watershed
10 Council; 1 member appointed by the Mystic River Watershed Association; 1 member appointed

11 by the Connecticut River Watershed; 1 member appointed by the Conservation Law Foundation,
12 Inc.; and 1 member appointed by the Massachusetts River Alliance.

13 (c)The commission shall advise and consult with: each mayor or town manager in the
14 municipalities along said rivers; and each operator or manager of a sewer or combined sewer
15 overflow location along said rivers.

16 (d)Members of said commission shall not receive compensation for their service, but may
17 receive reimbursement for reasonable expenses incurred in carrying out their responsibilities as
18 members of the commission. The commission may select and contract with independent
19 consultants to assist collecting and analyzing data and information, completing a final report and
20 any other activity to achieve the goals of the commission. The department of environmental
21 protection may furnish reasonable staff and other support for the work of the commission.

22 (e)The commission shall submit a report and recommendations regarding appropriate
23 measures to ensure the present and future health of the said rivers, including a determination of
24 the infrastructure, equipment, funding and programs necessary to the house and senate clerks no
25 later than January 1, 2022.