

SENATE No. 1345

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Jason M. Lewis, (BY REQUEST)

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 study establishment of, and definition of, a Middlesex Regional Commission.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Vincent Lawrence Dixon

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

*60 Lake Street – Unit N Winchester, Mass.
01890*

SENATE No. 1345

By Mr. Lewis (by request), a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1345) of Vincent Lawrence Dixon for legislation to study establishment of, and definition of, a Middlesex Regional Commission. Municipalities and Regional Government.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. 1195 OF 2019-2020.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act to study establishment of, and definition of, a Middlesex Regional Commission.

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 Massachusetts General Laws are hereby amended by inserting the
2 following new chapter:

3 An Act to study establishment of, and definition of, a Middlesex Regional Commission.

4 1.) A Middlesex Working Group (MWG), to examine, and specify, the concept, and
5 recommendations regarding a Middlesex Regional Commission, shall be established.

6 2.) Whereas, it appears, and is substantially believed by many individuals, local
7 governments,

8 organizations, and groups, that various undesirable pressures exist, and have been created
9 in
10 many parts of, and much of the region, known as Middlesex County, made up of 54
11 municipalities.

12 3.) Whereas, it is thought that these pressures include negative impacts from what is
13 called overdevelopment: including reduction, and loss of wetlands, flood plains,
14 watersheds,
15 permeable surfaces, open space, open land, in certain areas, insufficient development of
16 public
17 park and recreation land, loss of farm, and other agricultural land; unplanned pressures on
18 local
19 school district enrollments and budgets; and poor quality of construction, and infill
20 construction.

21 4.) Therefore, this Act is established, to create a study group called the Middlesex
22 Working Group (MWG), to consider the creation of a generally beneficial, and
23 supervisory body,
24 for the 54 municipalities, and people, of Middlesex County, to be known as the
25 Middlesex
26 Regional Commission, composed of a variety of members.

27 4a.) The Special Commission, named the Middlesex Working Group (MWG), is
28 authorized, to be created, referencing the manner, among other reference points, in which
29 the
30 Cape Cod Commission, has been established, and operates; to report back to the public,
31 and the
32 General Court, in a timely manner of between 12, and 24 months.

33 4b.) The MWG shall be composed of representatives from each of the 12 cities, and 42
34 towns of Middlesex County. Each of the 54 municipalities shall nominate one
35 representative.

36 Once this body is convened, it may consider also the sub-definitions of Middlesex North,
37 and
38 Middlesex South, as either separate districts, or sub-districts of the contemplated
39 Middlesex

40 Regional Commission (MRC). The MWG may also identify, recruit, and otherwise
41 obtain useful
42 additional advice, testimony, and other consultation, as seems needed, and proper.

43 4c.) The MWG shall collect detailed materials, by Open Public Meetings (OPMs),
44 written

45 submission, requested expert testimony, and other relevant means; and shall produce both
46 a
47 Summary Public Report (SPR), and a General Report (GR), of findings, including
48 appropriate
49 analysis, and recommendations for future actions, and the establishment of a permanent
50 Middlesex Regional Commission (MRC).

51 5.) The Middlesex Working Group (MWG), shall consider the definition of goals, for the
52 Middlesex Regional Commission (MRC) to include a wide range, including, in part:
53 Additional protections of the natural environment, including wetlands, floodplains,
54 watersheds, permeable surfaces, open space, open land, and agricultural uses.

55 In addition, particular standards to be encouraged should include, enhanced construction
56 standards, welcoming more neighborhood, and community friendly contractors; requiring
57 more durable and substantial forms of building construction, more environmentally
58 responsible design, including solar, geothermal, and other effective, and responsible
59 aspects.

60 6.) There shall be consultation, and evaluation with, local municipal school districts, on
61 their
62 expectations, for advance enrollment projections of at least five, ten, and twenty years, in

63 establishing potential trends for more fully services integrated communities.

64 7.) Regional housing goals, objectives, and standards, shall be apportioned across the

65 regional

66 commission district of the Middlesex Regional Commission. The Commission goals, are

67 to be

68 specifically oriented to support local community-friendly values.