

SENATE No. 558

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Adam G. Hinds

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 protect public and private woodlands and woodlots in the Commonwealth.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Adam G. Hinds</i>	<i>Berkshire, Hampshire, Franklin and Hampden</i>	
<i>Joseph A. Boncore</i>	<i>First Suffolk and Middlesex</i>	<i>3/26/2021</i>

SENATE No. 558

By Mr. Hinds, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 558) of Adam G. Hinds and Joseph A. Boncore for legislation to protect public and private woodlands and woodlots in the Commonwealth. Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. 486 OF 2019-2020.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act to protect public and private woodlands and woodlots in the 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. Chapter 23J of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
2 section 6 the following new section:-

3 Section 6A. Statewide plan for protecting carbon sequestration in public and private
4 woodlands and woodlots

5 The Center shall undertake a study of public and private woodlands and woodlots in the
6 Commonwealth to measure the aggregate amount of carbon sequestered in said woodlands and
7 woodlots in the trees, roots and soil. Within 240 days of said study’s completion, the Center
8 shall develop and implement a comprehensive statewide plan for the protection of both public
9 and private woodlands and woodlots that shall include policies for maintaining, enhancing and

10 protecting the carbon sequestered. The Center shall also work in collaboration with the
11 Executive Office of Energy and the Environment to establish policies and procedures where the
12 aggregate amount of the annual estimate of carbon sequestered in public and private woodlands
13 and woodlots shall be included as part of the Commonwealth's climate change goals and
14 renewable energy targets, and carbon emission reduction goals as provided in the Green
15 Communities Act.