SENATE DOCKET, NO. 2137 FILED ON: 2/19/2021

SENATE . . . . . No. 616

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Bruce E. Tarr

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 creating a special commission to scope a state grant or low interest loan program for properties prone to flooding.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
Bruce E. Tarr	*First Essex and Middlesex*	
Susan Williams Gifford	*2nd Plymouth*	*2/22/2021*
David F. DeCoste	*5th Plymouth*	*2/26/2021*
Susan L. Moran	*Plymouth and Barnstable*	*2/26/2021*
Mathew J. Muratore	*1st Plymouth*	*3/1/2021*
Michael O. Moore	*Second Worcester*	*3/2/2021*
Patrick M. O'Connor	*Plymouth and Norfolk*	*3/16/2021*

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By Mr. Tarr, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 616) of Bruce E. Tarr, Susan Williams Gifford, David F. DeCoste, Susan L. Moran and other members of the General Court for legislation to establish a special commission to scope a state grant or low interest loan program for properties prone to flooding. Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. *2849* OF 2019-2020.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act creating a special commission to scope a state grant or low interest loan program for properties prone to flooding.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

SECTION 1. (a) Notwithstanding any special or general law, there shall be a special commission, established and governed by section 2A of chapter 4 of the General Laws, to scope a state grant or low-interest loan program for structural elevation or acquisition of properties prone to flooding in the commonwealth. Components of consideration for the structure of the program shall include: (i) funding sources; (ii) eligible expenses; (iii) applicant eligibility; (iv) the establishment of a cost-benefit analysis in determining applicant eligibility; (v) risks and hazards identified in the integrated state hazard mitigation and climate adaptation plan and strategies to build resiliency; and (vi) program expenditures and pay outs.

(b) The special commission shall consist of: the secretary of energy and environmental affairs or a designee, who shall serve as the commission chair; 2 members of the house of representatives, 1 of whom shall be appointed by the minority leader; 2 members of the senate, 1 of whom shall be appointed by the minority leader; the chair of the state board of building regulation and standards or a designee; the director of the office of coastal zone management or a designee; 2 persons to be appointed by the director of the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency, 1 of whom shall be a contractor with experience in home elevations and 1 of whom shall be an insurance agent with knowledge in flood insurance and experience in guiding and consulting for mitigation activities; the acting state hazard mitigation officer of the state hazard mitigation team; the acting hazard mitigation grants supervisor of the state hazard mitigation team; a licensed lender with knowledge in flood insurance, 203K home loan lending and traditional loans used for mitigation activities who shall be appointed by the acting state hazard mitigation officer of the state hazard mitigation team; and 3 persons to be appointed by the governor, 1 of whom shall be a representative from a statewide environmental group with experience in coastal resiliency strategies and nature based solutions, 1 of whom shall be a representative of the executive office of energy and environmental affairs with knowledge of climate change adaptation, and 1 of whom shall be a representative from the executive office of public safety and security with knowledge of the federal hazard mitigation grant program and experience with mitigation activities. The first meeting of the special commission shall take place not later than December 1, 2020.

(c) The special commission shall submit its preliminary draft of any recommendations or legislation to the clerks of the house of representatives and the senate and the joint committee on environment, natural resources and agriculture not later than September 1, 2021. The special

commission shall submit its final draft of the program scope, together with any additional recommendations or drafts of legislation necessary to carry those recommendations into effect, by filing the same with the clerks of the house of representatives and the senate and the joint committee on environment, natural resources and agriculture not later than December 1, 2022.