

HOUSE No. 3144

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Natalie M. Blais

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 promoting solar energy canopies on large parking lots.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Natalie M. Blais</i>	<i>1st Franklin</i>	<i>1/18/2023</i>
<i>Mindy Domb</i>	<i>3rd Hampshire</i>	<i>1/20/2023</i>
<i>Lindsay N. Sabadosa</i>	<i>1st Hampshire</i>	<i>1/20/2023</i>
<i>Carmine Lawrence Gentile</i>	<i>13th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/25/2023</i>
<i>Aaron L. Saunders</i>	<i>7th Hampden</i>	<i>1/26/2023</i>
<i>Joanne M. Comerford</i>	<i>Hampshire, Franklin and Worcester</i>	<i>2/27/2023</i>

HOUSE No. 3144

By Representative Blais of Deerfield, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3144) of Natalie M. Blais and others for legislation to promote solar energy canopies on large parking lots. Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court
(2023-2024)

An Act promoting solar energy canopies on large parking lots.

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 21A of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
2 section 28 the following section:-

3 Section 29. (a) The office, in coordination with the department of energy resources, shall
4 establish a program to encourage the construction and operation of solar power generating
5 canopies over large parking lots. The program shall be designed to contribute to the state's
6 greenhouse gas emission reduction requirements and increase overall renewable energy
7 generation, as well as provide shade and weather protection to both the vehicles under the
8 canopies and people moving from their cars into the buildings served by the parking lot.

9 (b) The program shall include:

10 (i) incentives to encourage the construction and operation of solar power generating
11 canopies and co-located energy storage facilities, which may include construction requirements,
12 incentive payments, tax reductions or deferrals, expedited interconnection requirements, zoning

13 or other regulatory preferences, which may include increasing the amount of the incentive
14 through the state's current or future solar incentive program for solar panels mounted on parking
15 lot canopies; or other financial or regulatory incentives;

16 (ii) a definition of qualifying parking lots, which may be phased in over time;

17 (iii) minimum electric generation capacity requirements; and

18 (iv) such other criteria and conditions necessary for an efficient and effective solar power
19 generating canopies over large commercial parking lots program that significantly increases the
20 use of solar-generated power in the commonwealth.

21 (c) In designing the program, the department shall:

22 (i) consult with an advisory working group to make recommendations concerning the
23 design and operation of the program. The members of the advisory working group shall be
24 appointed by the secretary and shall include a representative of the division of energy resources,
25 who shall chair the working group, and a representative of the commercial real estate industry; a
26 representative of organized labor, a representative of the solar energy industry, a representative
27 of an environmental group concerned with energy, a representative of the construction industry,
28 a representative of an electric utility or organization representing electric utilities, a
29 representative of local government, a person with expertise in energy siting, and a person with
30 expertise in solar energy and energy efficiency; ;

31 (ii) review the design and operation of parking lot solar energy incentive programs
32 proposed or in operation in other jurisdictions, including in the state of Washington, Hawaii,
33 California, and France; and

34 (iii) hold not fewer than 3 public hearings in different regions of the commonwealth to
35 receive public testimony and input on the program.

36 (d) The department shall promulgate regulations as necessary to implement the program.

37 (e) If statutory changes are necessary to implement the program, the department shall
38 make specific recommendations to the general court for required changes in statutes.

39 SECTION 2. The advisory working group for the program to encourage the construction
40 and operation of solar power generating canopies over large parking lots under section 29 of
41 chapter 21A of the General Laws shall make its recommendations no later than 1 year after the
42 effective date of this act. The department shall implement said section 29 of said chapter 21A no
43 later than 2 years after the effective date of this act.