

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 404**

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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 to support rural job creation and business expansion.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Natalie M. Blais</i>	<i>1st Franklin</i>	<i>1/11/2023</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 404**

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By Representative Blais of Deerfield, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 404) of Natalie M. Blais that the Secretary of Economic Development establish a rural development initiative to support rural job creation and business expansion. Economic Development and Emerging Technologies.

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court  
(2023-2024)**  
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An Act to support rural job creation and business expansion.

*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 6A of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the  
2 following subsection in Section 16G:-  
3           (o.)The secretary of economic development shall, in consultation with the Rural Policy  
4 Advisory Commission, establish a rural development initiative to be administered by the  
5 executive office through a contract with the Massachusetts Development Finance Agency  
6 established by section 2 of chapter 23G. The initiative will provide technical assistance to  
7 identify and implement strategies that will spur direct investment in rural communities to create  
8 jobs and expand businesses, identify cross-sector partnerships, accelerate the engagement of  
9 community members in actionable planning, and implement local economic development  
10 initiatives.