

HOUSE No. 5162

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, December 30, 2024.

The committee on Ways and Means, to whom was referred the Senate Bill to promote nature-based approaches for resiliency and climate change adaptation throughout the Commonwealth (Senate, No. 2922), reports recommending that the same ought to pass with amendments striking all after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the text contained in House document numbered 5162; and by striking out the title and inserting in place thereof the following title: “ An Act establishing a pilot program for nature-based solutions to climate change.”.

For the committee,

AARON MICHLEWITZ.

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Text of amendments, recommended by the committee on Ways and Means, to the Senate Bill to promote nature-based approaches for resiliency and climate change adaptation throughout the Commonwealth (Senate, No. 2922). December 30, 2024.

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

By striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the following:–

1 “(a) The executive office of energy and environmental affairs shall, subject to
2 appropriation, establish a pilot program for research activities and demonstration projects for
3 nature-based solutions, as defined in section 1 of chapter 21N of the General Laws. The program
4 shall: (i) define categories of nature-based solutions and develop standards for their use; (ii)
5 coordinate, streamline and expedite the permitting and review process for activities and projects;
6 and (iii) prioritize activities and projects that advance scientific knowledge, provide net
7 conservation benefits, minimize impacts to existing wetlands and mitigate unavoidable impacts.
8 The secretary of energy and environmental affairs may modify specific performance standards
9 for nature-based solutions.

10 (b) The pilot program shall commence after regulations under subsection (c) are
11 promulgated and shall operate for 5 years. Not later than September 30, 2025, and annually
12 thereafter, the secretary shall file a report with the clerks of the senate and house of
13 representatives and the joint committee on environment and natural resources that: (i) details the
14 categories of nature-based solutions; (ii) analyzes the approval time for all permits required for

15 each approved research activity or demonstration project; (iii) specifies any specific performance
16 standards modified for each approved research activity or project; and (iv) provides data about
17 the effectiveness of each approved research activity or project.

18 (c) Not later than March 1, 2025, the executive office of energy and environmental affairs
19 shall promulgate regulations to implement this act.”; and

20 by striking out the title and inserting in place thereof the following title: “An Act
21 establishing a pilot program for nature-based solutions to climate change.”.