

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 supporting farm diversification and sustainability.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
Natalie M. Blais	1st Franklin	1/18/2023
Vanna Howard	17th Middlesex	3/5/2023

By Representative Blais of Deerfield, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 754) of Natalie M. Blais and Vanna Howard relative to agricultural preservation restrictions. Environment and Natural Resources.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act supporting farm diversification and sustainability.

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. Section 23 of chapter 20 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2018
2	Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out, in line 84, the words "a maximum of 5 years
3	duration" and inserting in place thereof the following words:- a period of at least 1 year.
4	SECTION 2. Subsection (b) of said section 23 of said chapter 20, as so appearing, is
5	hereby amended by adding the following 3 sentences:- Notwithstanding the foregoing, the
6	department may approve a special permit for a trial period of 1 year to evaluate a proposal for
7	nonagricultural activities. If a special permit is issued to a permit holder for a 1-year trial period
8	under this subsection, the department shall notify the permit holder of the department's decision
9	to renew, revoke or amend the permit within 1 year of the date of issuance. If the department
10	fails to notify the permit holder within 1 year of the date of issuance of a special permit of its
11	decision to renew, revoke or amend the special permit, the special permit shall automatically be
12	renewed for a period of 5 years.".

13	SECTION 3. Said section 23 of said chapter 20, as so appearing, is hereby further
14	amended by striking out, in line 112, the words "for a special permit authorized in subsection
15	(b)" and inserting in place thereof the following words:- any landowner of land subject to an
16	agricultural preservation restriction who is subject to and aggrieved by a decision of the
17	department relative to a special permit authorized under subsection (b), including a decision
18	regarding the renewal, revocation, amendment to or length of a special permit".