

HOUSE No. 754

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:
<i>Natalie M. Blais</i>	<i>1st Franklin</i>	<i>1/18/2023</i>
<i>Vanna Howard</i>	<i>17th Middlesex</i>	<i>3/5/2023</i>

HOUSE No. 754

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”.