

# SENATE . . . . . No. 2922

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

SENATE, July 31, 2024.

The committee on Senate 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. 458), - reports, recommending that the same ought to pass with an amendment substituting a new draft with the same title (Senate, No. 2922).

For the committee,  
Michael J. Rodrigues

**SENATE . . . . . No. 2922**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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

An Act to promote nature-based approaches for resiliency and climate change adaptation throughout the Commonwealth.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

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.