

SENATE No. 358

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Walter F. Timilty

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 resolve:

Resolve establishing a joint task force to study the utilization of Department of Conservation and Recreation sites for educational programming for safe outdoor learning.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Walter F. Timilty

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Norfolk, Plymouth and Bristol

SENATE No. 358

By Mr. Timilty, a petition (accompanied by resolve, Senate, No. 358) of Walter F. Timilty that provisions be made for an investigation and study by a joint task force relative to the utilization of Department of Conservation and Recreation sites for educational programming for safe outdoor learning. Education.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. 394 OF 2021-2022.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court
(2023-2024)**
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Resolve establishing a joint task force to study the utilization of Department of Conservation and Recreation sites for educational programming for safe outdoor learning.

1 **Resolved**, That the department of elementary and secondary education, in collaboration
2 with the department of conservation and recreation, shall convene a task force to review the
3 potential use of department of conservation and recreation sites for educational programming to
4 allow for safe outdoor learning by elementary and secondary students in the Commonwealth.

5 The task force shall consist of: the commissioner of elementary and secondary education
6 or a designee who shall serve as chair; the secretary of education or a designee; the
7 commissioner of department of conservation and recreation or a designee; the secretary of
8 energy and environmental affairs or a designee; an employee of the department of elementary
9 and secondary education who has expertise in accessibility for individuals with intellectual or
10 developmental disabilities; a representative of the Massachusetts Association of School

11 Superintendents, Inc.; a representative of the Massachusetts Association of School Committees;
12 a current actively working elementary or secondary teacher appointed by the American
13 Federation of Teachers Massachusetts; a current actively working elementary or secondary
14 teacher appointed by the Massachusetts Teachers Association; and a representative of the
15 Massachusetts Association of Approved Private Schools.

16 The task force shall: (i) conduct a comprehensive study of how to utilize existing
17 department of conservation and recreation sites to develop a curriculum for students of the
18 Commonwealth, including a review of existing department of elementary and secondary
19 recommended curriculum related to outdoor learning; (ii) determine potential topics for
20 curriculum, including but not limited to, science, humanities, and recreation; (iii) determine the
21 number of districts in the commonwealth near department of conservation and recreation sites;
22 (iii) identify any potential accessibility issues for students with intellectual or developmental
23 disabilities in relation to outdoor learning at department of conservation and recreation sites; (iv)
24 identify any potential costs associated with establishing outdoor learning curriculum to be taught
25 at department of conservation and recreation sites; and (iii) identify resources to assist districts in
26 implementing outdoor learning curriculum.

27 The task force shall file a report containing its findings and recommendations, including
28 legislation necessary to carry out its recommendations, with the clerks of the senate and house of
29 representatives by December 31, 2023.