SENATE DOCKET, NO. 2402 FILED ON: 1/20/2023

SENATE . . . . . No. 458

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Brendan P. Crighton

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

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
Brendan P. Crighton	*Third Essex*	
Kay Khan	*11th Middlesex*	*2/8/2023*
Nick Collins	*First Suffolk*	*2/14/2023*
Patrick M. O'Connor	*First Plymouth and Norfolk*	*5/18/2023*

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SENATE . . . . . No. 458

By Mr. Crighton, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 458) of Brendan P. Crighton, Kay Khan and Nick Collins for legislation to promote nature-based approaches for resiliency and climate change adaptation throughout the Commonwealth. Environment and Natural Resources.

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:

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any special act, law or regulation to the contrary, research activities and demonstration projects related to Nature-Based Approaches and implementation of Nature-Based Approaches, specifically designed to study or demonstrate the efficacy of Nature-Based Approaches and systems designed to enhance wave and energy attenuation, or mimic natural systems for the sole purpose of developing resiliency strategies and implementing Nature-Based Approaches, may be reviewed and approved in a timely manner by the authorities with jurisdiction over said activities, conditioned as appropriate, with the discretion to waive any and all performance and regulatory standards, provided that protections are upheld for Indigenous groups and cultural and historic resources, in order to fulfill the goal of conducting research and demonstration projects to inform future resiliency strategies and to implement Nature-Based Approaches throughout the Commonwealth. Demonstration projects shall consider

protections for underserved communities and environmental justice populations when designing and implementing said projects.

SECTION 2. This Act shall sunset five years from the date it is enacted.