

SENATE No. 2154

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Michael O. Moore

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 commission to study energy rate procurement related to investor-owned utilities and consumer relief.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Michael O. Moore</i>	<i>Second Worcester</i>	
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	<i>3/14/2023</i>
<i>Bruce E. Tarr</i>	<i>First Essex and Middlesex</i>	<i>3/22/2023</i>

SENATE No. 2154

By Mr. Moore, a petition (accompanied by resolve, Senate, No. 2154) of Michael O. Moore that provisions be made for an investigation and study by a special commission (including members of the General Court) to study energy rate procurement related to investor-owned utilities and consumer relief. Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

Resolve establishing a commission to study energy rate procurement related to investor-owned utilities and consumer relief.

1 **Resolved**, there shall be a commission to study, examine, make recommendations and
2 draft legislation relative to (1) energy rate procurement by investor-owned utilities within the
3 commonwealth; and (2) methods to provide relief to residents of the commonwealth from
4 substantial energy rate increases.

5 The commission shall consist of: the chairs of the joint committee on
6 telecommunications, utilities and energy, who shall serve as co-chairs of the commission; 4
7 members appointed by the governor, 3 of whom shall reside in the eastern, central and western
8 regions of the commonwealth, respectively, and 1 of whom shall be an employee of a
9 municipality that operates a municipal-owned utility; the chair of the department of public
10 utilities or a designee; the commissioner of the department of energy resources or a designee; the
11 attorney general or a designee; 1 member appointed by Eversource Energy, 1 member appointed
12 by National Grid; 1 member appointed by Unitil; and 1 member appointed by the National
13 Consumer Law Center.

14 The commission shall study and draft legislation to improve applicable statutes,
15 regulations and policies related to energy rate procurement by investor-owned utilities within the
16 commonwealth.

17 The commission shall study and draft legislation to establish an emergency interest-free
18 payment plan program for residents of the commonwealth who receive service through an
19 investor-owned utility. The program shall afford such residents of the commonwealth with the
20 ability to defer applicable utility payments for the duration of the emergency period, without
21 incurring interest or fees, when an emergency has led to substantially higher energy rates in the
22 commonwealth.

23 The legislation shall include, but shall not be limited to, (1) emergency activation triggers
24 or thresholds, including but not limited to, economic, geopolitical or environmental factors; (2)
25 eligibility for both low-income and middle-income residents of the commonwealth; and (3)
26 program termination procedures following the conclusion of the emergency situation, including
27 notice to residents utilizing the program and a repayment timeframe.

28 The commission shall file its recommendations and draft legislation with the clerks of the
29 senate and the house or representatives not later than one year after the effective date of this
30 resolve.