

HOUSE No. 1044

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Margaret R. Scarsdale

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 special commission to study climate change staffing levels.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Margaret R. Scarsdale</i>	<i>1st Middlesex</i>	<i>1/15/2025</i>

HOUSE No. 1044

By Representative Scarsdale of Pepperell, a petition (accompanied by resolve, House, No. 1044) of Margaret R. Scarsdale for legislation to establish a special commission (including members of the General Court) to study climate change staffing levels. Environment and Natural Resources.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court
(2025-2026)**

Resolve establishing a special commission to study climate change staffing levels.

1 **Resolved**, SECTION 1. (a) there shall be a special commission on climate change
2 staffing to determine appropriate levels of staffing and resources necessary to carry out climate
3 change response planning and strategy at the regional level, as part of the Commonwealth’s
4 effort to meet its clean energy and climate plan for 2050 goals. This study will have a particular
5 focus on determining what resources for these efforts should be available to rural, suburban, and
6 urban communities, including but not limited to: (i) technical and planning assistance; (ii)
7 financial assistance; and (iii) implementation assistance.

8 (b) The commission shall consist of seventeen members: the secretary of the executive
9 office of energy and environmental affairs or a designee, the secretary of the office of climate
10 innovation and resilience or a designee, who shall serve as co-chairs; the house and senate chairs
11 of the joint committee on environment and natural resources or their designees, and
12 representatives of the thirteen Massachusetts regional planning agencies or their designees.

13 (c) The commission shall: (i) investigate the current state of regional and local climate
14 resilience staffing; (ii) identify and assess gaps in regional and local climate staffing; and (iii)
15 develop a set of recommendations for assistance to communities and regions to ensure adequate
16 climate resilience staffing levels. The commission shall have a particular focus on equitable
17 distribution of resources across rural, suburban, and urban areas. The commission may consult
18 with relevant experts to support the commission’s objectives and the production of its report.

19 (d) The commission shall file its report and recommendations with the clerks of the
20 senate and house of representatives, the senate and house committees on ways and means, and
21 the joint committee on environment and natural resources not later than July 31, 2026.

22 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon its passage.