

HOUSE No. 3519

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Jack Patrick Lewis

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 relative to a feasibility report on solar rooftop energy on new buildings.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Jack Patrick Lewis</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/16/2025</i>
<i>Rodney M. Elliott</i>	<i>16th Middlesex</i>	<i>3/12/2025</i>
<i>James C. Arena-DeRosa</i>	<i>8th Middlesex</i>	<i>3/12/2025</i>

HOUSE No. 3519

By Representative Lewis of Framingham, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3519) of Jack Patrick Lewis, Rodney M. Elliott and James C. Arena-DeRosa for an investigation and study by a special commission to study the feasibility of authorizing the installation of rooftop solar energy systems. Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to a feasibility report on solar rooftop energy on new buildings.

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

1 SECTION 1. (a) There shall be established pursuant to section 2A of chapter 4 of the
2 General Laws, a special legislative commission on solar rooftop energy on new buildings.

3 (b) The commission shall consist of 12 members: the commissioner of energy resources
4 or a designee, and the following members to be appointed by the secretary of energy and
5 environmental affairs: a representative of the commercial real estate sector; a representative of
6 the residential real estate sector; a representative of the organized labor industry; a representative
7 of the solar energy industry; a representative of an environmental group concerned with energy;
8 a representative of the construction industry; a representative of an electric utility or organization
9 representing electric utilities; a representative of local government; a person with expertise in
10 energy siting; and a person with expertise in solar energy and energy efficiency.

11 (c) The commission shall conduct a thorough review of the policies and procedures
12 related to solar energy systems, battery storage systems, and building construction pursuant to
13 the base energy code, stretch energy code, and specialized stretch energy code established under
14 section 6 of chapter 25A and sections 93 through 100 of chapter 143. The goals of the special
15 commission shall be to submit a feasibility report on the requirement of solar energy system
16 installations systems on new buildings. The report shall include, but not be limited to: (i) the
17 feasibility of allowing the installation of a rooftop solar energy system in new buildings (ii) the
18 feasibility of an energy storage system in conjunction with solar energy systems (iii) how the the
19 department of public utilities can provide services to advance the commonwealth's goals under
20 chapter 298 of the acts of 2008 and the statewide greenhouse gas emissions limits under chapter
21 21N of the General Laws; and (iv) recommendations, including, but not limited to, policy or
22 legislative changes, related to solar energy system installations and battery storage systems on
23 new buildings.

24 (d) The commission shall submit its report and recommendations, together with drafts of
25 legislation to carry its recommendations into effect, by filing the same with the clerks of the
26 house of representatives and the senate not later than January 1, 2026.