

HOUSE No. 490

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Kristin E. Kassner

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 preparing Massachusetts for the next economy.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Kristin E. Kassner</i>	<i>2nd Essex</i>	<i>1/17/2025</i>

HOUSE No. 490

By Representative Kassner of Hamilton, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 490) of Kristin E. Kassner for an investigation by a special commission relative to the preparation of the built environment for the next economy, including an inventory of infrastructure, buildings, and land use regulations. Economic Development and Emerging Technologies.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 3822 OF 2023-2024.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court
(2025-2026)**
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An Act preparing Massachusetts for the next economy.

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

1 (a) There shall be established a special commission on preparing the built environment
2 for the next economy, including an inventory of infrastructure, buildings, and land use
3 regulations. The goal of this special commission is to link government, utilities, business, and
4 educational postgraduate institutions in the commonwealth to create a realistic plan to strengthen
5 the economy, provide housing, and opportunities for emerging technologies while protecting our
6 environment and open space.

7 (b) The Massachusetts: NEXT special commission shall consist of the Secretaries of the
8 Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities and the Executive Office of Economic
9 Development or their designees; at least two members from the Massachusetts Association of

10 Regional Planning Agencies; one member from the Massachusetts Municipal Association; at
11 least two members that serve on regional water authorities; one member from NAIOP, two
12 members appointed by the Speaker of the Massachusetts House; and two members appointed by
13 the Massachusetts Senate President. The special commission shall also include a minimum of
14 two (2) institutional partners, including University of Massachusetts, and additional universities
15 selected by the Speaker and Senate President. The special commission shall be staffed by a
16 director appointed by the Secretaries.

17 (c) The special commission shall collect data regarding the availability of water,
18 wastewater, electricity, transportation access, and proximity to food and medical resources, local
19 land use regulations, the existing built environment, and local limitations to diversity in the
20 economy.

21 (d) The special commission shall hold at least one public hearing and may hold additional
22 hearings as necessary at which members of the public shall have an opportunity to speak.

23 (d) Not later than June 30, 2026, the special commission shall file a report on its findings,
24 including recommendations to implement said findings, with the clerks of the House and Senate,
25 the Secretaries of Housing and Livable Communities and Economic Development, and the
26 House and Senate committees on Ways and Means. The report shall include an inventory of
27 current land use and natural resources; housing and business needs, infrastructure, land use
28 regulations, and recommendations to balance preservation and growth opportunities for housing,
29 economic development and associated infrastructure.