

SENATE No. 52

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Joanne M. Comerford

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 membership updates for the Massachusetts Food Policy Council.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Joanne M. Comerford</i>	<i>Hampshire, Franklin and Worcester</i>	
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	<i>1/27/2025</i>
<i>Michael O. Moore</i>	<i>Second Worcester</i>	<i>3/6/2025</i>

SENATE No. 52

By Ms. Comerford, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 52) of Joanne M. Comerford, James B. Eldridge and Michael O. Moore for legislation to update the membership for the Massachusetts Food Policy Council. Agriculture.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to membership updates for the Massachusetts Food Policy Council.

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. Section 6C of chapter 20 of the General Laws, as most recently amended by
2 section 49 of chapter 7 of the acts of 2023, is hereby amended by striking out subsection (a) and
3 inserting in place thereof the following subsection:-

4 (a) There shall be established a Massachusetts food policy council, hereinafter referred to
5 as the council. The council shall consist of 20 members, 1 of whom shall be a member of the
6 house of representatives; 1 of whom shall be a member of the senate; 1 of whom shall be a
7 member of the house of representatives who shall be appointed by the minority leader of the
8 house of representatives; 1 of whom shall be a member of the senate who shall be appointed by
9 the minority leader of the senate; 1 of whom shall be the commissioner of agricultural resources,
10 or the commissioner's designee; 1 of whom shall be the commissioner of public health, or the
11 commissioner's designee; 1 of whom shall be the commissioner of elementary and secondary
12 education, or the commissioner's designee; 1 of whom shall be the commissioner of

13 environmental protection, or the commissioner's designee; 1 of whom shall be the commissioner
14 of transitional assistance or the commissioner's designee; 1 of whom shall be the secretary of
15 economic development, or the secretary's designee; 1 of whom shall be the director of the
16 division of marine fisheries of the department of fish and game, or the director's designee; 1 of
17 whom shall be an expert in healthy soils practices as defined in section 7A of chapter 128,
18 appointed by the secretary of energy and environmental affairs; 1 of whom shall be the director
19 of the University of Massachusetts Center for Agriculture, Food, and the Environment, or the
20 director's designee; and 7 of whom shall be appointed by the governor, 1 of whom shall be a
21 farmer or representative of a farm organization, 1 of whom shall represent food distribution,
22 processing and marketing interests, 1 of whom shall represent direct-to-consumer marketing
23 efforts, 1 of whom shall represent a local health department addressing food safety and nutrition,
24 1 of whom shall be an expert in food safety, 1 of whom shall be an expert in food processing and
25 handling; and 1 of whom shall represent community-based efforts addressing nutrition and
26 public health.

27 SECTION 2. Said section 6C of said chapter 20 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is
28 hereby further amended by inserting after the last sentence of subsection (c) the following 4
29 sentences:-

30 Advisory committee members may be eligible for compensation at a rate fixed by the
31 council, as approved by the chief financial officer of the department of agricultural resources to
32 ensure appropriate funds are available to cover the costs. Advisory committee members shall be
33 eligible for compensation only to the extent otherwise permitted by chapter 268A of the general
34 laws and upon providing the necessary documentation required to process any such payment.

35 Any request for compensation shall be made by the advisory committee member to the

36 department of agricultural resources within 30 days of being incurred. Requests made after this
37 time may be ineligible for payment.