

**SENATE . . . . . No. 558**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***Brendan P. Crighton***

*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 establishing a pilot program for nature-based solutions to climate change.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Brendan P. Crighton</i>	<i>Third Essex</i>	
<i>Hadley Luddy</i>	<i>4th Barnstable</i>	<i>2/28/2025</i>
<i>Barry R. Finegold</i>	<i>Second Essex and Middlesex</i>	<i>4/15/2025</i>
<i>Patrick M. O'Connor</i>	<i>First Plymouth and Norfolk</i>	<i>4/27/2025</i>

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By Mr. Crighton, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 558) of Brendan P. Crighton and Hadley Luddy for legislation to promote nature-based approaches for resiliency and climate change adaptation throughout the Commonwealth. Environment and Natural Resources.

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[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE SENATE, NO. 458 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 establishing a pilot program for nature-based solutions to climate change.

*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) The executive office of energy and environmental affairs shall establish a pilot  
2 program for research activities and demonstration projects for nature-based solutions, as defined  
3 in section 1 of chapter 21N of the General Laws. The program shall: (i) define categories of  
4 nature-based solutions and develop standards for their use; (ii) coordinate, streamline and  
5 expedite the permitting and review process for activities and projects; and (iii) prioritize  
6 activities and projects that advance scientific knowledge, provide conservation benefits, and  
7 minimize impacts to existing wetlands. The secretary of energy and environmental affairs and  
8 commissioners/directors of permitting agencies may modify specific performance standards for  
9 nature-based solutions.

10           (b) The pilot program shall commence upon the effective date of this Act and operate for  
11 5 years. Not later than one year from the effective date of this Act, and annually thereafter, the  
12 secretary shall file a report with the clerks of the senate and house of representatives and the joint  
13 committee on environment and natural resources that: (i) details the categories of nature-based  
14 solutions; (ii) analyzes the approval time for all permits required for each approved research  
15 activity or demonstration project; (iii) specifies any specific performance standards modified for  
16 each approved research activity or project; and (iv) provides data about the effectiveness of each  
17 approved research activity or project.