

SENATE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Patrick M. O'Connor

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 the impact of natural gas transfer facilities on public health.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Patrick M. O'Connor

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

First Plymouth and Norfolk

SENATE No.

[Pin Slip]

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. 2160 OF 2023-2024.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to the impact of natural gas transfer facilities on public health.

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. There is hereby established a moratorium of the issuance of permits for the
2 hydraulic fracturing of natural gas within the legal boundaries of the Commonwealth.

3 SECTION 2. (a) A school of public health within the state university of Massachusetts
4 shall conduct a comprehensive health impact assessment following a model recommended by the
5 centers for disease control and prevention to examine potential public health impacts that could
6 be caused by the extraction or transportation or compression of natural gas. For the purposes of
7 this act, health impact assessment shall mean a combination of procedures, methods, and tools by
8 which a policy, program, or project may be judged as to its potential effects on the health of a
9 population, and the distribution of those effects within the population.

10 (b) Prior to the commencement of such assessment, the school of public health
11 conducting such assessment shall prepare a scoping document that will establish the parameters

12 of the health impact assessment. The scoping document shall include the analyses contained in
13 this act, as well as any other potential analyses to be conducted, and shall be subject to public
14 review, comment and revision.

15 SECTION 3. The comprehensive health impact assessment shall be submitted, along with
16 any recommendations or drafts of legislation, to the clerks of the House of Representatives and
17 the Senate, the chairs of the joint committee on mental health and substance abuse not later than
18 December 1, 2026.