



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

SPECIAL JOINT COMMITTEE ON
INITIATIVE PETITIONS
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133

Special Joint Committee on Initiative Petitions

Rep. Alice H. Peisch
House Chair

Sen. Cindy F. Friedman
Senate Chair

HEARING NOTICE

Date of Hearing: Monday, March 23, 2026

Time: 11:00 AM-1:30 PM

Location: A-1 and streamed virtual

The Joint Committee on Initiative Petitions will conduct a hearing in Room A-1, on Monday, March 23, 2026, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on ballot initiative NO. 25-15 An Act to protect water and nature (House, No. 5005).

The Joint Committee will hear invited testimony from experienced professionals and subject matter experts, proponents, and opponents. The public is invited to participate in this hearing. Advanced registration to present in-person oral testimony is required of anyone other than those invited. Those wishing to register to testify may do so by emailing Mollie Cecconi at Mary.Cecconi@mahouse.gov. The deadline to register is Friday, March 20th at 12 PM. Please include your name, address, whether you support or oppose the question, and whether your testimony is on behalf of yourself or an organization. Participation will be limited as the portion of the hearing dedicated to public testimony is scheduled for 30 minutes. Chairs will limit testimony of the public to 2 minutes per speaker.

Should more people register than time can accommodate, they will be directed to submit written testimony. Written testimony may be submitted by mail to the Special Committee on Initiative Petitions at 24 Beacon Street, Room 235, Boston, MA 02133 or via email at SpecialJointCommitteeonInitiativePetitions@malegislature.gov. The deadline to submit written testimony is Friday, March 27th at 5:00 PM.

At the discretion of the Chairs and per committee rules, written testimony received by the committee will be made publicly available. The committee may limit availability or redact testimony that includes sensitive personal information, information about minors, or information that may jeopardize the health, wellness or safety of the testifier or others.

The livestream of this hearing will be available on the Legislature's website [here](#).

You may contact Committee staff with any questions at Mary.Cecconi@mahouse.gov or Elizabeth.Berman@masenate.gov.

Bill No.	Title
H5005	An Act relative to protect water and nature

Please be advised that the schedule and agenda are subject to change at the discretion of the chairs per Committee rules.

Special Joint Committee on Initiative Petitions

Bill Summary

BILL NUMBER House, No. 5005

TITLE An Act to protect water and nature

HEARING DATE Monday, March 23, 2026, 11:00 AM to 1:30 PM

SUMMARY

SUMMARY OF NO. 25-15

This proposed law would establish a Nature for All Fund that, subject to appropriation by the Legislature, would receive 50% of state taxes collected from the sale and use of sporting goods, recreational vehicles, and golf courses for the first year of its operation. After July 1, 2028, the Nature for All Fund would begin receiving, subject to appropriation by the Legislature, 100% of state taxes collected on the sale and use of sporting goods, recreational vehicles, and golf courses. The sales tax revenue received by the Nature for All Fund would exclude sales tax revenue transferred to the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority State and Local Contribution Fund and the School Modernization and Reconstruction Trust Fund. The proposed law would allow the state Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs to spend the money in the Nature for All Fund for natural resource conservation.

The proposed law would allow public and private donations to the Nature for All Fund. The proposed law would prevent the state comptroller from transferring surplus funds in the Nature for All Fund at the end of the fiscal year. It would also allow state agencies, municipalities, public charities involved in natural resource conservation, tribal governments, and other regional public entities to receive money from the Nature for All Fund.

Natural resource conservation would include the conservation or restoration of land to protect drinking water, streams, rivers, lakes, coasts, farms, forests, connectivity between open spaces, and lands and natural resources of indigenous cultural significance. Natural resource conservation would also include the creation, improvement, and management of parks, trails, greenspaces or outdoor recreation access. The proposed law would establish a 15-member Nature for All Board that consists of five state officials and ten members of the public appointed by the Governor.

The proposed law would require the ten members of the public to include representatives of underserved communities and indigenous peoples and at least one person with expertise or experience in natural resource conservation. The proposed law would allow the state Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs to spend money from the Nature for All Fund to hire staff to manage the fund. The proposed law would also require the Nature for All Board to establish rules about how the money in the Nature for All Fund should be spent, including rules regarding alignment with environmental justice principles, access to and restoration of lands and natural resources of indigenous cultural significance, promotion of affordable housing development, and other matters regarding spending and bond issuance.

The proposed law would require the state Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs to submit an annual report to various state committees regarding the funds spent to buy or improve land in cities and towns containing environmental justice populations. The proposed law would take effect on July 1, 2027.