HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 1615 FILED ON: 1/17/2013

HOUSE . . . . . No. 2089

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Todd M. Smola

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 passage of the accompanying:

An Act creating a special commission to study the health impacts of wind turbines.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Todd M. Smola	*1st Hampden*
Thomas J. Calter	*12th Plymouth*

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HOUSE . . . . . No. 2089

By Mr. Smola of Palmer, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2089) of Todd M. Smola and Thomas J. Calter for an investigation by a special commission (including members of the General Court) on the health impacts of wind turbines. Public Health.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE
HOUSE
, NO. *2379* OF 2011-2012.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

An Act creating a special commission to study the health impacts of wind turbines.

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

Whereas there are serious concerns across the Commonwealth involving the impact of large wind turbines on the health of its citizens; and,

Whereas people, who live in close proximity to wind turbines or who are concerned about the siting of wind turbines, are concerned about the health impacts of wind turbines;

Therefore be it resolved that there shall be a Special Commission on the Health Impacts of Wind Turbines on the citizens of the Commonwealth. Said Commission shall be comprised of the House and Senate Chairmen of the Joint Committee on Public Health as well as the ranking House and Senate minority members on the committee; the House and Senate Chairmen of the Joint Committee on Telecommunication, Utilities and Energy and the ranking House and Senate minority members; the Commissioner of the Department of Public Health or his designee; a scientist who shall be knowledgeable about the health affects of wind turbines who shall be appointed by the Governor; three epidemiologists one each who shall be appointed by the Governor, the Senate President and the Speaker of the House; the director of the Barnstable County Department of Health and Environment; the Executive Director or designee each of the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, the Franklin Regional Council of Governments, the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission, the Martha's Vineyard Commission, the Old Colony Planning Council, and the Cape Cod Commission; a municipal health agent to be appointed by the Massachusetts Association of Health Boards; a member of the Massachusetts

19 Medical Society who shall serve as chair; a member of the Massachusetts Municipal Association
20 knowledgeable about the health effects of wind turbines; and three citizens of the
21 Commonwealth living within 3000 feet of an operating wind turbine, one of each to be appointed
22 by the regional planning agencies of the counties of Barnstable, Berkshire and Worcester.

23 Said study shall commence within 30 days of the enactment of this bill and said
24 Commission shall file a report no later than September 30, 2011. Said Commission shall study
25 all facets of health impacts of wind turbines including but not limited to the effects of low
26 frequency noise on humans and animals, sleep disorders, difficulty with equilibrium, headaches,
27 childhood night terrors, effects on the inner ear, learning and mood disorders, panic attacks,
28 irritability, concentration and memory, noise, flicker, proximity, size of wind turbine, and wind
29 conditions. Said study shall make recommendations to the Great and General Court on
30 legislation designed to protect the health of the citizens of the Commonwealth including an
31 acceptable distance to site a wind turbine project from dwellings and businesses and from
32 municipal, commercial and residential property lines, an optimum wind turbine size and design
33 that reduces health impacts to acceptable levels, and a recommendation as to whether wind
34 turbine projects should be reviewed by local boards of health as part of the permitting process
35 and any other matter that may come before the Study Commission that will enhance the
36 protection of the public health.