HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 1052 FILED ON: 1/16/2013

HOUSE . . . . . No. 792

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Tom Sannicandro

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 to repower Massachusetts.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Tom Sannicandro	*7th Middlesex*
Kay Khan	*11th Middlesex*
Timothy J. Toomey, Jr.	*26th Middlesex*
Ellen Story	*3rd Hampshire*

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By Mr. Sannicandro of Ashland, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 792) of Tom Sannicandro and others for legislation to create a special task force to study interim and longer-term actions necessary to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE
HOUSE
, NO. *2024* OF 2011-2012.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

An Act to repower Massachusetts.

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

Whereas, Global climatic disruption will severely undermine and imperil the economic, political, and social stability of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the United States of America, and the nations of the world by decreasing the availability of food and water to people across the world; and

Whereas, Decreased availability of food and water will lead to increased conflict around the world;

Whereas, Massachusetts has a strong history of leadership on global climatic disruption, including its participation in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative and its passage of the Green Communities Act;

Whereas, When the scientific consensus indicated that a stabilization of atmospheric levels of carbon dioxide at or below 450 parts per million (PPM) was sufficient to hold the risk of ruinous climate change at an acceptably low level, Massachusetts responded with the passage of the Global Warming Solutions Act to aim us towards this goal;

Whereas, Leading scientists now state that 350 parts per million (PPM) is the highest safe level of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere;

16 Whereas, Current global levels of carbon dioxide are approximately 390 parts per
17 million;

18 Whereas, The fact that we have exceeded the safe threshold is evident through the major
19 losses of ice around the world, including in the Arctic, as well as the World Health
20 Organization's estimations that hundreds of thousands of people already die every year from the
21 direct and indirect effects of climate change;

22 Whereas, Massachusetts has a moral obligation to as soon as possible eliminate its
23 contribution to global destabilization as a result of rapid climatic disruption;

24 Whereas, This body has previously endorsed the goal of 100% clean electricity in the
25 next 10 years by calling on Congress to Repower America through a joint resolution passed by
26 both houses in the spring of 2009;

27 Whereas By beginning this rapid transition earlier than most, the Commonwealth will
28 attract industrial investment in renewable energy and sustainable technology and green jobs that
29 will facilitate the transition of the rest of the nation and world to a sustainable economy; and

30 Whereas, The deferred operation of this act would tend to defeat its purpose, which is to
31 provide forthwith for the utilization of 100% renewable, alternative and nuclear energy in the
32 commonwealth in order to demonstrate global leadership and to avoid global climatic disruption,
33 therefore it is hereby declared to be an emergency law, necessary for the immediate preservation
34 of the public convenience.

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

37 SECTION 1. Chapter 21N of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
38 section 9 the following section 10:

39 Section 10. Repower Massachusetts Emergency Task Force

40 (a) Within two weeks of the bill's passage, the Governor, in consultation with the
41 Secretary, shall appoint and immediately assemble a RePower Massachusetts Emergency Task
42 Force "Task Force" comprised of 14 members to assist in implementing this chapter. The Task
43 Force shall consist of the Secretary or a designee, who shall be the chair of the Task Force;
44 Chairman of Senate Committee on Global Warming and Climate Change or a designee;
45 Chairman of the House Committee on Global Warming and Climate Change or a designee, the
46 commissioner of energy resources or a designee, the commissioner of environmental protection
47 or a designee, the commissioner of the department of public utilities or a designee, and 1
48 representative from each of following communities: the religious community, the student climate
49 advocacy community, the environmental justice community, renewable energy and energy

50 efficiency businesses, electric utilities, academic institutions, climate advocacy organizations,
51 and the businesses community.

52 (b) Within six months of its convening, the Task Force shall develop a plan and make
53 recommendations to the Secretary and the legislature for meeting the target of 100% emission
54 reductions by January 1, 2022, which shall include interim and longer-term actions necessary for
55 implementation.

56 (c) The Task Force shall file a report with its finding, including any legislative and
57 regulatory recommendations, with the Governor, the Secretary, clerks of the senate and house of
58 representatives, the joint committee on telecommunications, utility, and energy, and the senate
59 and house committees on ways and means not later than six months and two weeks after the
60 effective date of this act.

61 (d) The Task Force shall specifically consider, but not be limited to, evaluating the
62 following actions:

63 (1) amendments to the commonwealth's participation in the Regional Greenhouse Gas
64 Initiative

65 (2) amendments to the commonwealth's renewable energy portfolio standard to conform
66 to the goals of this Act,

67 (3) options for phasing out by January 1, 2022, the use of alternative renewable energy
68 sources that have positive net greenhouse gas emissions during their operating cycles.

69 (4) amendments to reinstate authority to the executive that was removed during utility
70 deregulation.

71 (5) wind-siting reform

72 (6) creating a state or regional mechanism to price carbon

73 (7) smart grid implementation

74 (8) deep energy efficiency investments

75 (e) When respectively making recommendations, the Task Force shall consider, but not
76 be limited to, the following:

77 (1) That the goal of 100% emissions reductions in the electricity sector should be
78 primarily achieved by (a) reducing electricity demand through efficiency and appropriate
79 economic incentives, and (b) by building new renewable energy generation.

80 (2) That coal is the most carbon-intensive fossil fuel, and interim recommendations
81 towards zero emissions in the electricity sector should prioritize reducing electricity consumption

82 from coal before other fossil fuels, with a goal of a complete phase-out of coal-powered
83 electricity by January 1st, 2017.

84 (3) That due consideration should be given to low-income communities and individuals
85 to make sure that they are not forced to endure disproportionate hardship during the transition to
86 a clean energy economy.

87 (4) That due consideration should be given to the needs of the industrial sector to make
88 sure that they are not encouraged to move their industrial processes out of state without resulting
89 in actual emissions reductions.

90 (5) That carbon emissions reductions are most valuable in the short-term, and that any
91 energy source using fuel that claims to be carbon-neutral over a span of years or decades should
92 be not be considered a net zero carbon emissions source of electricity, unless it is deemed to be
93 sustainable and carbon neutral by an independent panel of scientists.

94 (f) The Secretary shall appoint and assemble subcommittees as needed to achieve the
95 goals. The subcommittees shall be composed of agency staff and representatives the same
96 communities represented on the Task Force, as well as other relevant communities the Task
97 Force votes to include at its first or later meetings.

98 (g) The Task Force shall not meet any less than once every two weeks, and staff from the
99 Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, the Department of Environmental
100 Protection, the Department of Public Utilities, and the Department of Energy Resources shall
101 assist the Task Force in their studies as required for their successful completion.

102 (h) Upon the completion of the Task Force's recommendations, the Secretary shall
103 appoint a Repower Massachusetts Advisory Council "Advisory Council" that shall consist of 14
104 representatives of the same agencies and communities as the Task Force to periodically review
105 implementation of recommendations and advise the Governor, the Secretary, clerks of the senate
106 and house of representatives, the joint committee on telecommunications, utility, and energy, and
107 the senate and house committees on ways and means with annual reports on adjustments
108 necessary for meeting the target of 100% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions associated with
109 the electric sector by January 1, 2022.

110 (i) If the goal of 100% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions associated with the electric
111 sector is not achieved by January 1st, 2022, the Advisory Council will continue its work,
112 including but not limited to its annual reports, until such date that the goal is achieved.