

HOUSE No. 188

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 adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act to establish to an industrial mill building task force.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Todd M. Smola

1st Hampden

Susannah M. Whipps

2nd Franklin

HOUSE No. 188

By Mr. Smola of Warren, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 188) of Todd M. Smola and Susannah M. Whipps for legislation to establish an industrial mill building revitalization task force (including members of the General Court) to stimulate the re-development, rehabilitation and revitalization of industrial mill buildings and surrounding areas in the Commonwealth. Community Development and Small Businesses.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court
(2019-2020)**

An Act to establish to an industrial mill building task force.

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 XXXX. (a) There shall be an industrial mill building revitalization task force
2 to stimulate the re-development, rehabilitation and revitalization of industrial mill buildings and
3 surrounding areas in the commonwealth. The task force shall: (i) review current laws and
4 regulations beneficial the revitalization of mill buildings and surrounding areas, including, but
5 not limited to, federal and state tax incentives and renewable energy production; (ii) create a list
6 of existing mill buildings, their locations, whether they are active or inactive and current uses, if
7 applicable, in the commonwealth; (iii) investigate potential new uses for mill buildings based on
8 market conditions that increase economic development; (iv) identify strategies to improve mill
9 building energy efficiency and prevent further structural and environmental degradation; (v)
10 explore innovative permitting processes, zoning regulations and building codes to encourage
11 redevelopment; and (vi) consider any other action in furtherance of its purpose.

12

13 (b) The task force shall consist of the secretary of housing and economic development, or
14 a designee, who shall serve as chair; the secretary of energy and environmental affairs, or a
15 designee; the chairs of the joint committee on economic development and emerging
16 technologies, or their designees; the director of Massachusetts Development Finance Agency, or
17 a designee; 2 members of the house of representatives who represent communities with mill
18 buildings, designated by the speaker of the house of representatives; 2 members of the senate
19 who represent communities with mill buildings, designated by the senate president; the director
20 of the Massachusetts clean energy center, or a designee; 2 residents of the commonwealth who
21 own mill buildings, 1 active and 1 inactive, designated by the chair; 1 representative of a
22 Massachusetts utility company, designated by the chair; 1 representative from an economic
23 development organization, designated by the chair; 3 representatives of Massachusetts planning
24 organizations, 1 of whom shall be from the western region of the state, 1 of whom shall be from
25 the central region of the state and 1 of whom shall be from the eastern region of the state,
26 designated by the chair.

27

28 (c) The task force shall submit its report and recommendations, together with drafts of
29 legislation to carry its recommendations into effect, to the chairs of the joint committee on
30 economic development and emerging technologies and the clerks of the house of representatives
31 and the senate not later than August 1, 2021.