

HOUSE No. 2115

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Carolyn C. Dykema

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 drought management.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Carolyn C. Dykema</i>	<i>8th Middlesex</i>
<i>Shawn Dooley</i>	<i>9th Norfolk</i>
<i>Richard J. Ross</i>	<i>Norfolk, Bristol and Middlesex</i>
<i>Denise Provost</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>
<i>Frank I. Smizik</i>	<i>15th Norfolk</i>
<i>Kenneth I. Gordon</i>	<i>21st Middlesex</i>
<i>Carmine L. Gentile</i>	<i>13th Middlesex</i>
<i>Daniel M. Donahue</i>	<i>16th Worcester</i>
<i>Cory Atkins</i>	<i>14th Middlesex</i>
<i>Natalie Higgins</i>	<i>4th Worcester</i>
<i>Ruth B. Balsler</i>	<i>12th Middlesex</i>
<i>Daniel J. Ryan</i>	<i>2nd Suffolk</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>
<i>James J. O'Day</i>	<i>14th Worcester</i>
<i>David M. Rogers</i>	<i>24th Middlesex</i>
<i>Jose F. Tosado</i>	<i>9th Hampden</i>
<i>Kimberly N. Ferguson</i>	<i>1st Worcester</i>
<i>Bradford R. Hill</i>	<i>4th Essex</i>

<i>Robert M. Koczera</i>	<i>11th Bristol</i>
<i>Thomas J. Calter</i>	<i>12th Plymouth</i>
<i>Christine P. Barber</i>	<i>34th Middlesex</i>
<i>Kay Khan</i>	<i>11th Middlesex</i>
<i>Hannah Kane</i>	<i>11th Worcester</i>
<i>Brian Murray</i>	<i>10th Worcester</i>
<i>Kate Hogan</i>	<i>3rd Middlesex</i>
<i>Mike Connolly</i>	<i>26th Middlesex</i>
<i>Louis L. Kafka</i>	<i>8th Norfolk</i>
<i>Peter V. Kocot</i>	<i>1st Hampshire</i>
<i>Mary S. Keefe</i>	<i>15th Worcester</i>
<i>Jay D. Livingstone</i>	<i>8th Suffolk</i>
<i>Paul A. Schmid, III</i>	<i>8th Bristol</i>
<i>Anne M. Gobi</i>	<i>Worcester, Hampden, Hampshire and Middlesex</i>
<i>Daniel Cullinane</i>	<i>12th Suffolk</i>
<i>Jonathan Hecht</i>	<i>29th Middlesex</i>
<i>Michael S. Day</i>	<i>31st Middlesex</i>
<i>Jennifer E. Benson</i>	<i>37th Middlesex</i>
<i>Daniel J. Hunt</i>	<i>13th Suffolk</i>
<i>Jack Lewis</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>
<i>Bruce E. Tarr</i>	<i>First Essex and Middlesex</i>
<i>Sean Garballey</i>	<i>23rd Middlesex</i>
<i>Solomon Goldstein-Rose</i>	<i>3rd Hampshire</i>
<i>Denise C. Garlick</i>	<i>13th Norfolk</i>
<i>Julian Cyr</i>	<i>Cape and Islands</i>

HOUSE No. 2115

By Ms. Dykema of Holliston, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2115) of Carolyn C. Dykema and others for legislation to establish a drought management task force . Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninetieth General Court
(2017-2018)**

An Act relative to drought management.

Whereas, The deferred operation of this act would tend to defeat its purpose, which is to forthwith improve the commonwealth’s preparedness and response to drought, therefore, it is hereby declared to be an emergency law, necessary for the immediate preservation of the public convenience.

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

1 Chapter 21A of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2014 Official Edition, is hereby
2 amended by inserting after section 2A the following section:-

3 Section 2B. (a)There shall be established within the office the drought management task
4 force. The secretary and the director of the Massachusetts emergency management agency shall
5 appoint to the task force officials from state agencies and professional organizations with
6 responsibility for areas likely to be affected by drought conditions; representatives of agencies
7 that provide data used to assess drought conditions or that have the ability to respond to drought
8 conditions; and public health and safety and environmental professionals, and may invite
9 officials from federal agencies to participate. The secretary and the director shall have joint

10 responsibility for coordinating the task force. The task force shall meet at least quarterly, but it
11 shall meet at least monthly during drought. The task force shall be staffed by a director appointed
12 by the secretary.

13 (b) Within 6 months, the task force shall adopt, and update thereafter as needed, a revised
14 drought management plan that addresses preparedness, and defines drought indices, action levels
15 with appropriate levels of response, communication, and coordination based on drought severity.
16 The drought management plan shall protect public health and safety and the environment. Some
17 drought management plan actions may be triggered by particular drought indices and shall not
18 require a majority of the indices at a drought level to be reached.

19 The task force shall assist in collecting and assessing technical information, facilitating
20 coordination and communication among task force members, agencies and the public, and
21 provide recommendations to the secretary, the secretary of public safety and security and the
22 governor on the level of drought and responses thereto. The task force shall also make
23 recommendations for the end of drought, or reduction of the drought level, focusing on the key
24 drought indicators of precipitation, groundwater levels and streamflow.

25 (c) The secretary may order water conservation measures, including limits on
26 nonessential outdoor water use, based on the severity of drought in drought regions to protect
27 public health, safety or the environment. Such water conservation measures by the secretary shall
28 apply uniformly to all water users within a drought region.

29

30 (d) Notwithstanding section 27C of chapter 29 of the General Laws or any ordinance, by-
31 law, rule or regulation to the contrary, cities and towns shall enforce, water conservation
32 restrictions issued by the secretary to the fullest extent permitted by law.