

HOUSE No. 3363

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Maria Duaine Robinson

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 establishing a natural gas demand response pilot program.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Maria Duaine Robinson</i>	<i>6th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/25/2021</i>
<i>Tami L. Gouveia</i>	<i>14th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/22/2021</i>
<i>Patrick Joseph Kearney</i>	<i>4th Plymouth</i>	<i>2/22/2021</i>
<i>Lindsay N. Sabadosa</i>	<i>1st Hampshire</i>	<i>2/23/2021</i>
<i>Rebecca L. Rausch</i>	<i>Norfolk, Bristol and Middlesex</i>	<i>2/23/2021</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>

HOUSE No. 3363

By Ms. Robinson of Framingham, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3363) of Maria Duaine Robinson and others for legislation to establish a natural gas demand response pilot program within the Department of Public Utilities. Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 3791 OF 2019-2020.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Second General Court
(2021-2022)**

An Act establishing a natural gas demand response pilot program.

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 1. Chapter 25 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
2 section 21 the following section:-

3 Section 21A. The department of public utilities shall establish and administer a program,
4 to be known as the Natural Gas Demand Response Program, to implement a natural gas demand
5 response program in the commonwealth. The department shall promulgate regulations as
6 necessary to implement the program.

7 SECTION 2. (a) The department of public utilities together with the department of
8 energy resources shall conduct a study assessing the potential for implementing a natural gas
9 demand response program to meet winter peak demand, and shall consider, at a minimum: (i) the

10 impact that such program might have on reducing stress on the distribution system, (ii) the value
11 of the environmental impacts of such program; and (iii) the ratepayer impact, which the
12 departments shall consider in conjunction with the office of the attorney general in its role as the
13 commonwealth's ratepayer advocate.

14 (b) In conducting the study, the departments shall ensure the method is consistent with
15 published academic and industry guidance, and shall consult stakeholders with experience and
16 expertise in power systems, natural gas pipelines, and electric and natural gas utility ratemaking
17 regarding the proposed method, underlying assumptions and preliminary data.

18 (c) The departments shall submit to the clerks for the house of representatives and the
19 senate, and to the house and senate chairs of the joint committee on telecommunications, utilities
20 and energy a report on the determination of the feasibility and value of natural gas demand
21 response to the commonwealth not later than 180 days after the effective date of this act.

22 SECTION 3. The department of public utilities shall, within 30 days of the report
23 submitted pursuant to section 2 and in consideration of the findings of the study required
24 pursuant to said section 2, establish and implement the Natural Gas Demand Response Program
25 pursuant to section 21A of chapter 25 of the General Laws.