

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 4917**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

*Michael J. Finn and James T. Welch*

*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 authorizing the conveyance of easements and conservation restrictions to watershed lands of the city known as the town of West Springfield.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Michael J. Finn</i>	<i>6th Hampden</i>
<i>James T. Welch</i>	<i>Hampden</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 4917**

By Representative Finn of West Springfield and Senator Welch, a joint petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4917) of Michael J. Finn and James T. Welch (with the approval of the mayor and town council) that the city known as the town of West Springfield be authorized to grant easements and conservation restrictions to all or portions of certain parcels of land owned by said city to the Department of Conservation and Recreation. Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture. [Local Approval Received.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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

An Act authorizing the conveyance of easements and conservation restrictions to watershed lands of the city known as the town of West Springfield.

*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. Notwithstanding any special or general law to the contrary, the town of  
2   West Springfield, acting by and through its town council with approval by its mayor, may grant  
3   to the commonwealth of Massachusetts, acting by and through its department of conservation  
4   and recreation, and to the Massachusetts Audubon Society, Inc. easements and restrictions  
5   through a conservation restriction under and with the benefits of sections 31 and 32 of chapter  
6   184 of the general laws in and to all or portions of certain parcels of land owned by the town of  
7   West Springfield identified in section 2 below. Such conservation restriction may be jointly  
8   granted to and held by the department and the Massachusetts Audubon Society, Inc. The grant  
9   shall be for conservation and recreational purposes for the general public under article XCVII of  
10  the amendments to the constitution of the commonwealth of Massachusetts, including the

11 preservation and protection of water resources, wildlife and native habitats, sustainable forest  
12 management, and passive recreational uses. The property identified in section 2 was acquired for  
13 and used previously by the town of West Springfield for watershed and water supply protection  
14 purposes.

15 SECTION 2. The parcels are identified as follows:

16 All the lands, including lands under water, located at the Bear Hole reservoir and  
17 Paucatuck brook in the town of West Springfield and city of Holyoke identified by the town of  
18 West Springfield assessor as map 3, block 1, lot 1, map 3, block 2, lot 1, map 11, block 1, lots 1  
19 and 2, map 18 block 1, lot 1, map 19, block 1, lots 6 and 7, map 25, block 1, lot 1, map 26, block  
20 1, lot 1, map 26, block 2, lot 1, map 27, block 1, lot 1, map 27 block 3, lots 1 and 2, map 27,  
21 block 4, lot 1, map 34, block 1, lot 1, map 36, block 1, lots 5, 6 and 10, map 44, block 1, lot 1,  
22 map 45, block 1, lots 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5, map 53, block 1, lot 1 and map 61, block 1, lots 1 and 2  
23 and identified by the city of Holyoke assessor as map 177, lots 2, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 respectively,  
24 meaning to include without limitation such parcels and the lands and water located within the  
25 Bear Hole reservoir and Paucatuck brook watershed areas, however such areas may be described.

26 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon its passage.