

HOUSE No. 714

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Kevin J. Kuros

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 a Beaver Damage Control Commission.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Kevin J. Kuros

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

8th Worcester

HOUSE No. 714

By Mr. Kuros of Uxbridge, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 714) of Kevin J. Kuros for an investigation by a special commission relative to the impact of beaver dams in the Commonwealth. Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court
(2015-2016)**

An Act to Establish a Beaver Damage Control Commission.

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 general or special law or regulation to the contrary,
2 a special commission hereafter referred to as the commission, is hereby established for the
3 purpose of investigating the environmental, public health, safety, personal property rights and
4 financial impacts of beaver dams and their effect on ponds, streams, rivers and their surrounding
5 areas.

6 The commission shall be chaired by the Secretary of Energy and Environmental
7 Affairs, or his designee, and shall consist of thirteen members:

8 2 of whom shall be appointed by the speaker of the house; 1 of whom shall be appointed
9 by the house minority leader; 2 of whom shall be appointed by the senate president; 1 of whom
10 shall be appointed by the senate minority leader; the Commissioner of the Department of Fish
11 and Game, or his designee; the Commissioner of the Department of Public Health, or his

12 designee; the president of Mass Audubon, or his designee; and 3 of whom shall be subject matter
13 experts appointed by the Governor.

14 The commission shall determine the best means to assess the impact of the beaver
15 population on the Commonwealth, including but not limited to surveying cities and towns for
16 local impact, reviewing data already available at the state and local levels, conducting hearings
17 and inviting testimony from experts and the public, and other means as deemed necessary by the
18 commission.

19 Members of the commission shall be named and the commission shall commence its
20 work within 60 days of the effective date of this act. The commission shall report to the general
21 court the results of its investigation and study, and recommendations, if any, together with drafts
22 of legislation necessary to implement its recommendations into effect by filing the same with the
23 clerks of the senate and the house of representatives on or before January 1, 2016. The clerks of
24 the house and senate shall make the reports available to the public through the internet.