

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 749**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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PRESENTED BY:

***Michael S. Day, (BY REQUEST)***

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*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 resolve:

Resolve to review, consider, and evaluate, and to establish a suitable body and/or special commission to consider climate change economic consequences.

\_\_\_\_\_

PETITION OF:

NAME:

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

*Vincent Lawrence Dixon*

\_\_\_\_\_

*Brian M. Ashe*

*2nd Hampden*

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 749**

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By Mr. Day of Stoneham (by request), a petition (accompanied by resolve, House, No. 749) of Vincent Lawrence Dixon and Brian M. Ashe for an investigation by a special commission (including members of the General Court) to study the economic consequences of climate change. Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture.

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court**  
**(2019-2020)**  
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Resolve to review, consider, and evaluate, and to establish a suitable body and/or special commission to consider climate change economic consequences.

1           **Resolved**, 1.) It appears, and it is generally agreed, that Climate Change, is occurring,

2           across our Planet Earth, and that there are actual present consequences, and potential

3 actual

4           future consequences of these circumstances. It has generally been determined that there is

5 a

6           global warming phenomena, that this can also lead to various extremes, that cause rises in

7 water

8           levels, extreme variations in temperature, risks of extreme droughts, exaggerated

9 extremes in

10           storms, and other effects.

11           2.) While there are numerous arguments regarding causation, its extent, and its potential

12 severity, there is little argument, as to the reality of these circumstances.

13 3.) Important aspects of government, public policy, and public services, include, but not  
14 limited to, providing for the public good, in terms of lives, public health, public safety,  
15 and reasonable protection of property, both public, and private.

16 4.) Recent disasters, and continuing erosion, especially along the Massachusetts coast,  
17 numerous flooding events within the Commonwealth, and other severe weather events,  
18 have  
19 caused damage to the Commonwealth, its citizens, its businesses, and its economic costs;  
20 and  
21 potentially presage many further, potentially damaging events.

22 5.) While larger policies, can most effectively be dealt with by the broader Federal  
23 agencies, and government; and various international agreements; there are numerous  
24 practical  
25 circumstances, that should be addressed, and measured, in terms of looking forward, for  
26 the  
27 reasonable security of our Commonwealth; and its cities, and towns.

28 6.) It is in the interests of all residents of our Commonwealth, that their local  
29 governments in

30 the municipalities, and other public agencies, be able to anticipate such costs, needs for  
31 various

32 actions, and what amounts of financing, may be needed, as part of responsible public  
33 services, and long-term planning. This will assist residents, home owners, businesses,  
34 institutions, and other stakeholders, in their long-term planning, as well as their ordinary  
35 operations.

36 7.) Therefore, this Resolve, creates a Climate Change Economic Consequences

37 Commission, to collect data (including both existing, and new needed data); assess  
38 various

39 likely, and possible, scenarios, relating to climate changes, environmental variations, and  
40 other

41 reasonable adjustments of public policy; and to report on various levels of cost,  
42 appropriate

43 descriptions of insurance, and financing; in terms of individuals, possible disasters, and  
44 other

45 related matters, that are important to the people of our Commonwealth.

46 8.) Membership – The membership of this Commission shall be appointed as follows: A

47 total membership of twenty-one (21); five (5) appointed by the Governor, five (5) by the

48 President of the Senate, five (5) by the Speaker of the House; and the remaining six (6)

49 by the

50 first fifteen (15), from individuals of the Commonwealth applying, including  
51 representatives of  
52 organizations, scientists, local city and town municipalities, insurance adjusters, financial  
53 organizational planners, infrastructure experts, and ordinary citizens.

54 9.) Duration of Commission – This Commission shall hold regular hearings, at least four  
55 per  
56 year, across the Commonwealth, and file reports, on an at least annual basis, completing  
57 its  
58 business, not later than five (5) years after its establishment.